HUNTER × HUNTER™

ハンター × ハンター

5

SHONEN JUMP ADVANCED

Story & Art by

YOSHIHIRO TOGASHI

冨樫義博

The picture in vol. 3 was me. (The one who took it was my then girlfriend, now wife.)

Yoshihiro Togashi

Yoshihiro Togashi's manga career began in 1986 at the age of 20, when he won the coveted Osamu Tezuka Award for new manga artists. He debuted in the Japanese **Weekly Shonen Jump** magazine in 1989 with the romantic comedy **Tende Shôwaru Cupid**. From 1990 to 1994 he wrote and drew the hit manga **YuYu Hakusho**, which was followed by the dark comedy science-fiction series **Level E,** and finally this adventure series **Hunter x Hunter**. In 1999 he married the manga artist Naoko Takeuchi.

HUNTER X HUNTER Volume 5
The SHONEN JUMP ADVANCED Graphic Novel Edition

STORY AND ART BY
YOSHIHIRO TOGASHI

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PARENTAL ADVISORY
HUNTER X HUNTER is rated T+ for Older Teen and is recommended for ages 16 and up. Contains realistic violence and mature language.

THE WORLD'S MOST CUTTING-EDGE MANGA
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SHONEN JUMP ADVANCED GRAPHIC NOVEL

HUNTER×HUNTER™

ハンター×ハンター

Story & Art by

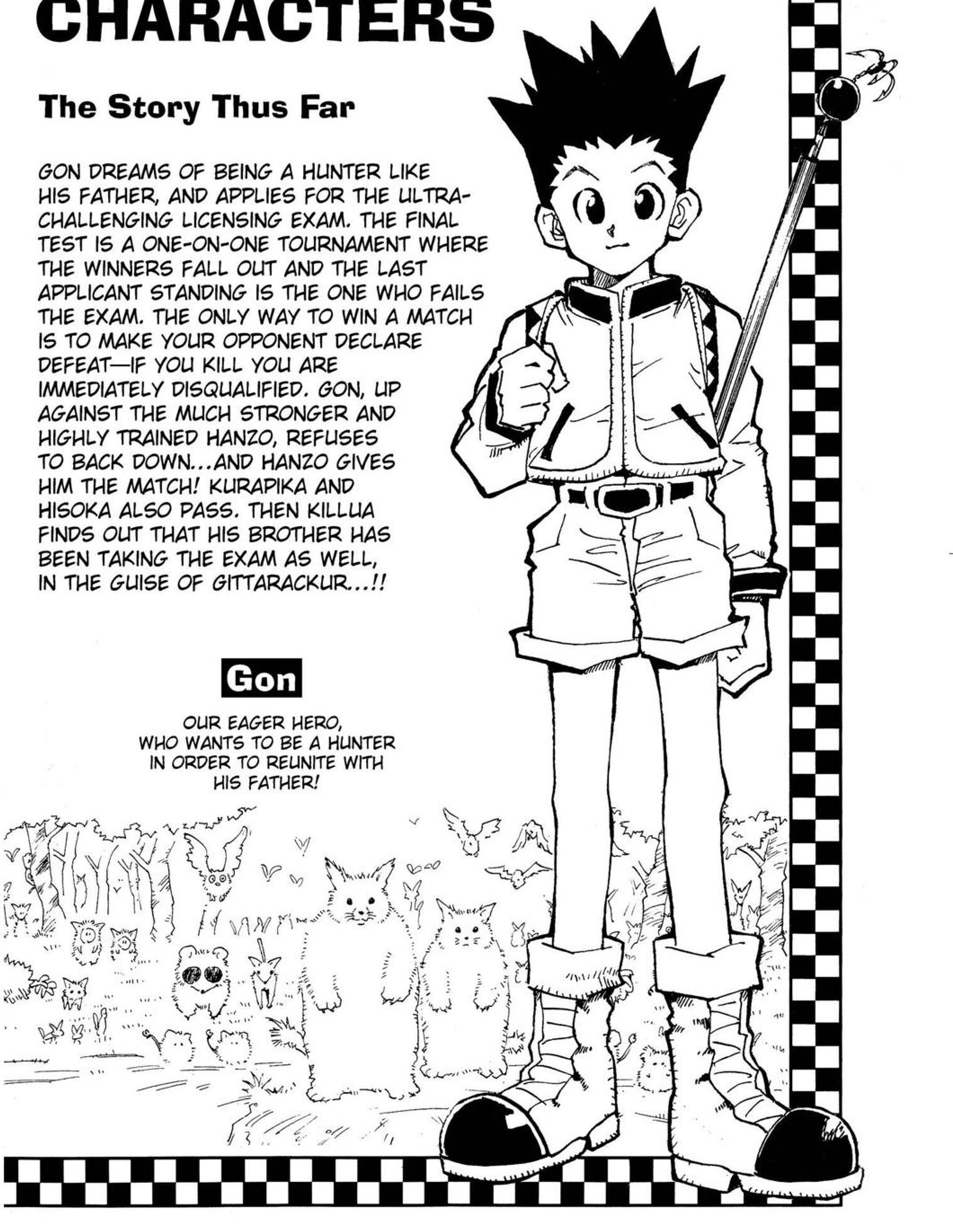
Yoshihiro Togashi

Volume 5

CHARACTERS

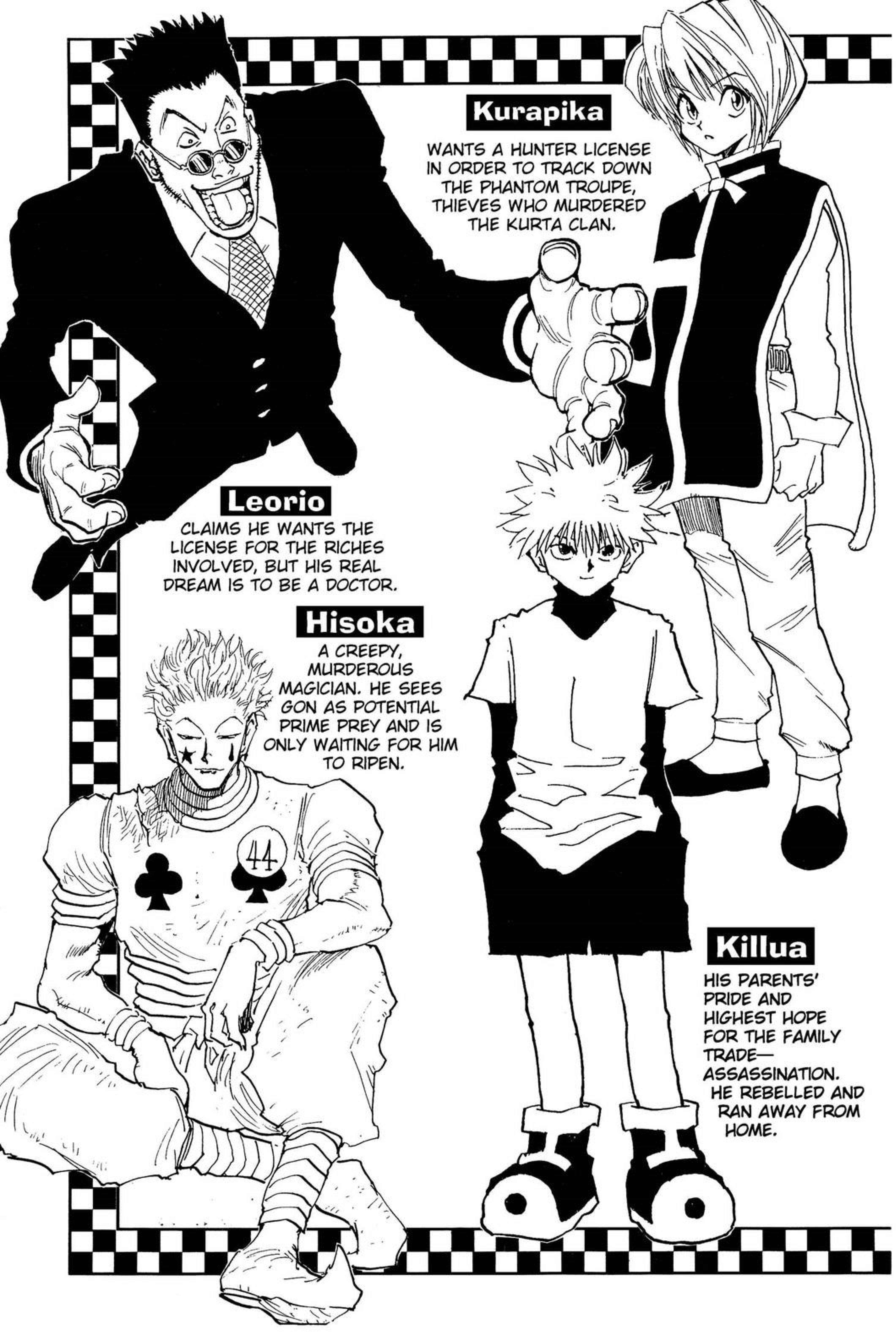
The Story Thus Far

GON DREAMS OF BEING A HUNTER LIKE HIS FATHER, AND APPLIES FOR THE ULTRA-CHALLENGING LICENSING EXAM. THE FINAL TEST IS A ONE-ON-ONE TOURNAMENT WHERE THE WINNERS FALL OUT AND THE LAST APPLICANT STANDING IS THE ONE WHO FAILS THE EXAM. THE ONLY WAY TO WIN A MATCH IS TO MAKE YOUR OPPONENT DECLARE DEFEAT—IF YOU KILL YOU ARE IMMEDIATELY DISQUALIFIED. GON, UP AGAINST THE MUCH STRONGER AND HIGHLY TRAINED HANZO, REFUSES TO BACK DOWN...AND HANZO GIVES HIM THE MATCH! KURAPIKA AND HISOKA ALSO PASS. THEN KILLUA FINDS OUT THAT HIS BROTHER HAS BEEN TAKING THE EXAM AS WELL, IN THE GUISE OF GITTARACKUR...!!



Gon

OUR EAGER HERO, WHO WANTS TO BE A HUNTER IN ORDER TO REUNITE WITH HIS FATHER!



Kurapika

WANTS A HUNTER LICENSE IN ORDER TO TRACK DOWN THE PHANTOM TROUPE, THIEVES WHO MURDERED THE KURTA CLAN.

Leorio

CLAIMS HE WANTS THE LICENSE FOR THE RICHES INVOLVED, BUT HIS REAL DREAM IS TO BE A DOCTOR.

Hisoka

A CREEPY, MURDEROUS MAGICIAN. HE SEES GON AS POTENTIAL PRIME PREY AND IS ONLY WAITING FOR HIM TO RIPEN.

Killua

HIS PARENTS' PRIDE AND HIGHEST HOPE FOR THE FAMILY TRADE—ASSASSINATION. HE REBELLED AND RAN AWAY FROM HOME.

HUNTER×HUNTER™

Volume 5

CONTENTS

Chapter 36
Light and Darkness, part 2 7

Chapter 37
Light and Darkness, part 3 27

Chapter 38
Ging Freecss 47

Chapter 39
Intruder 67

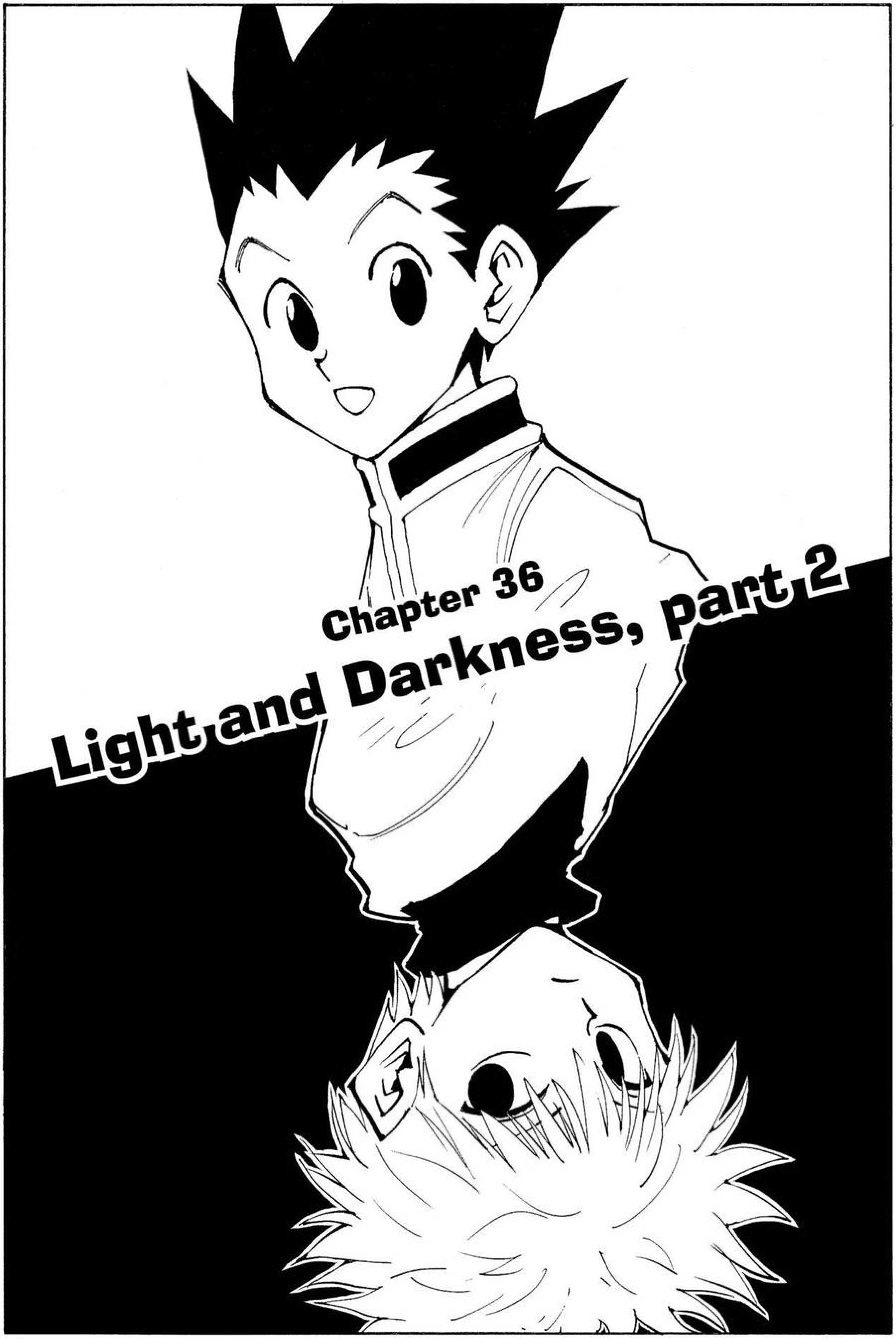
Chapter 40
The Zoldycks, part 1 87

Chapter 41
The Zoldycks, part 2 107

Chapter 42
The Zoldycks, part 3 127

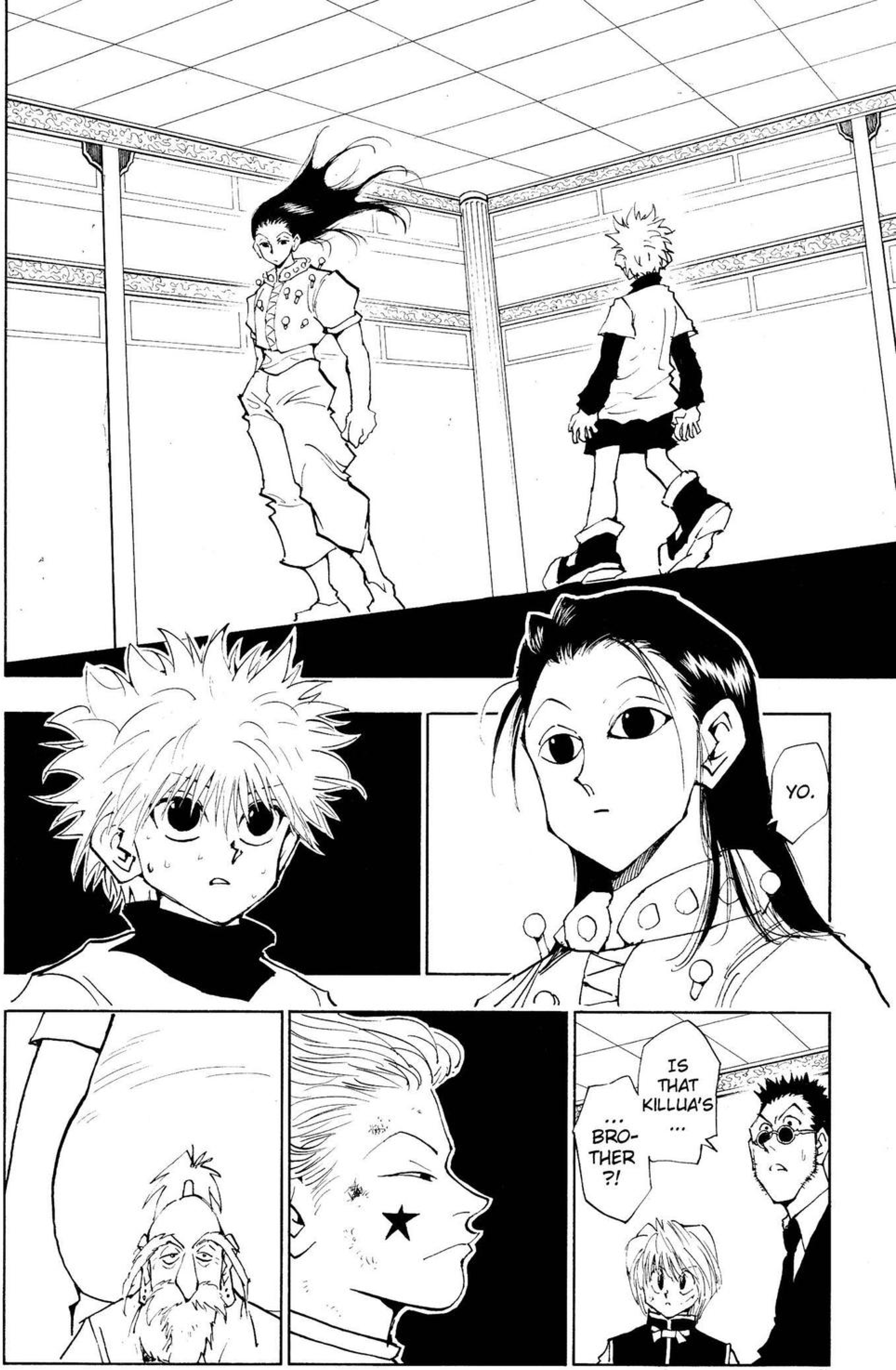
Chapter 43
The Zoldycks, part 4 147

Chapter 44
The Heavens Arena 167

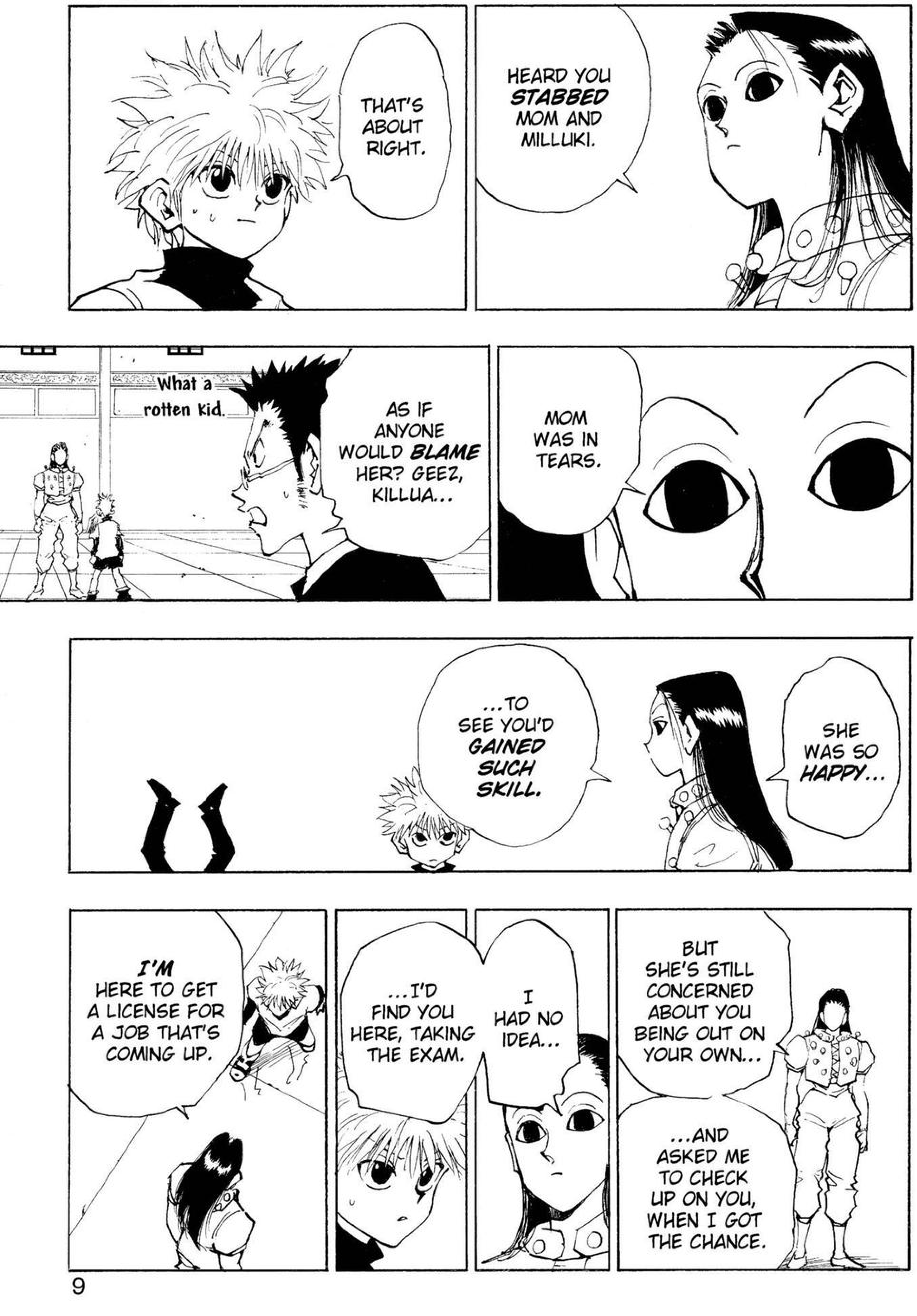


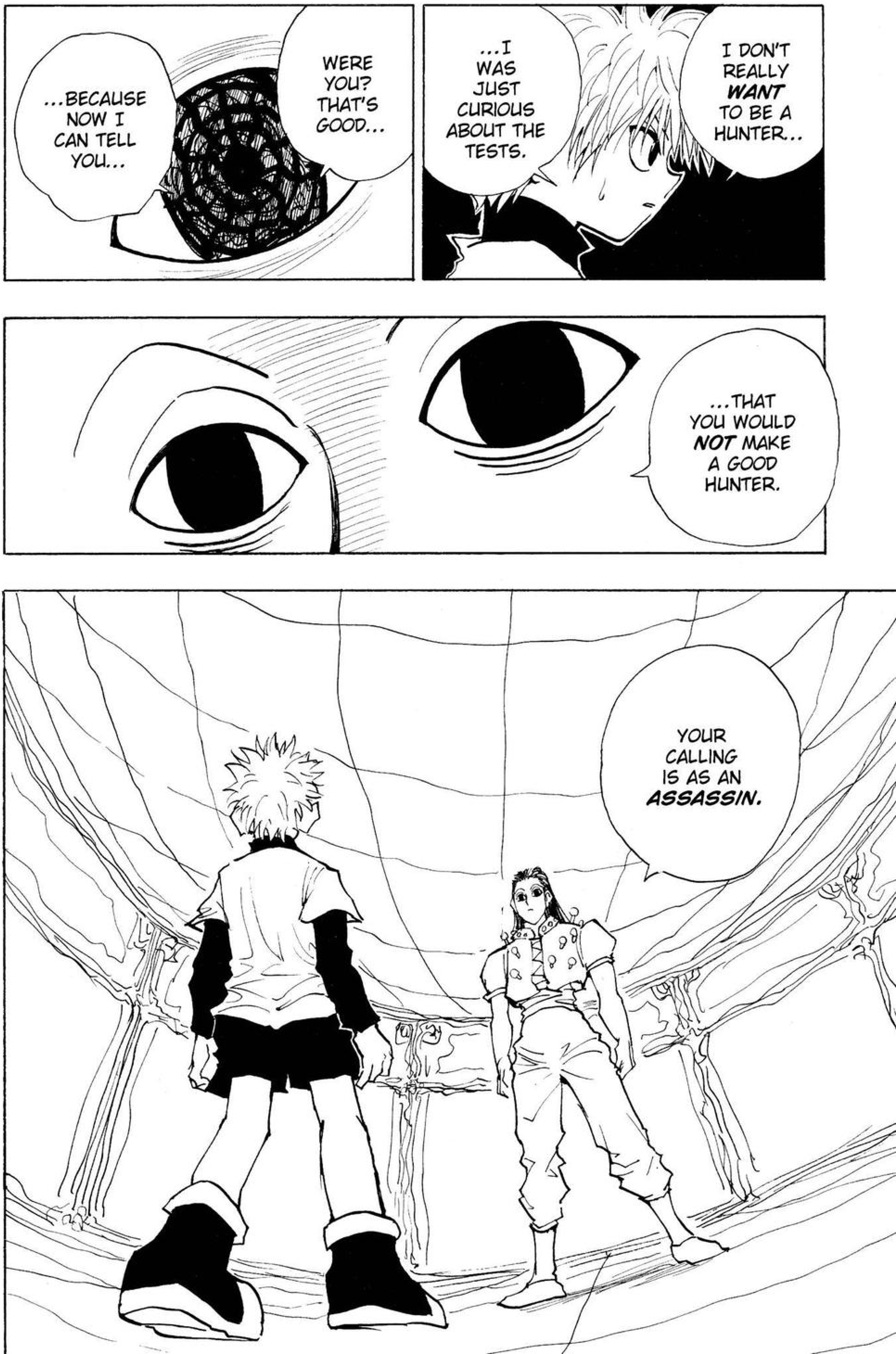
Chapter 36

Light and Darkness, part 2

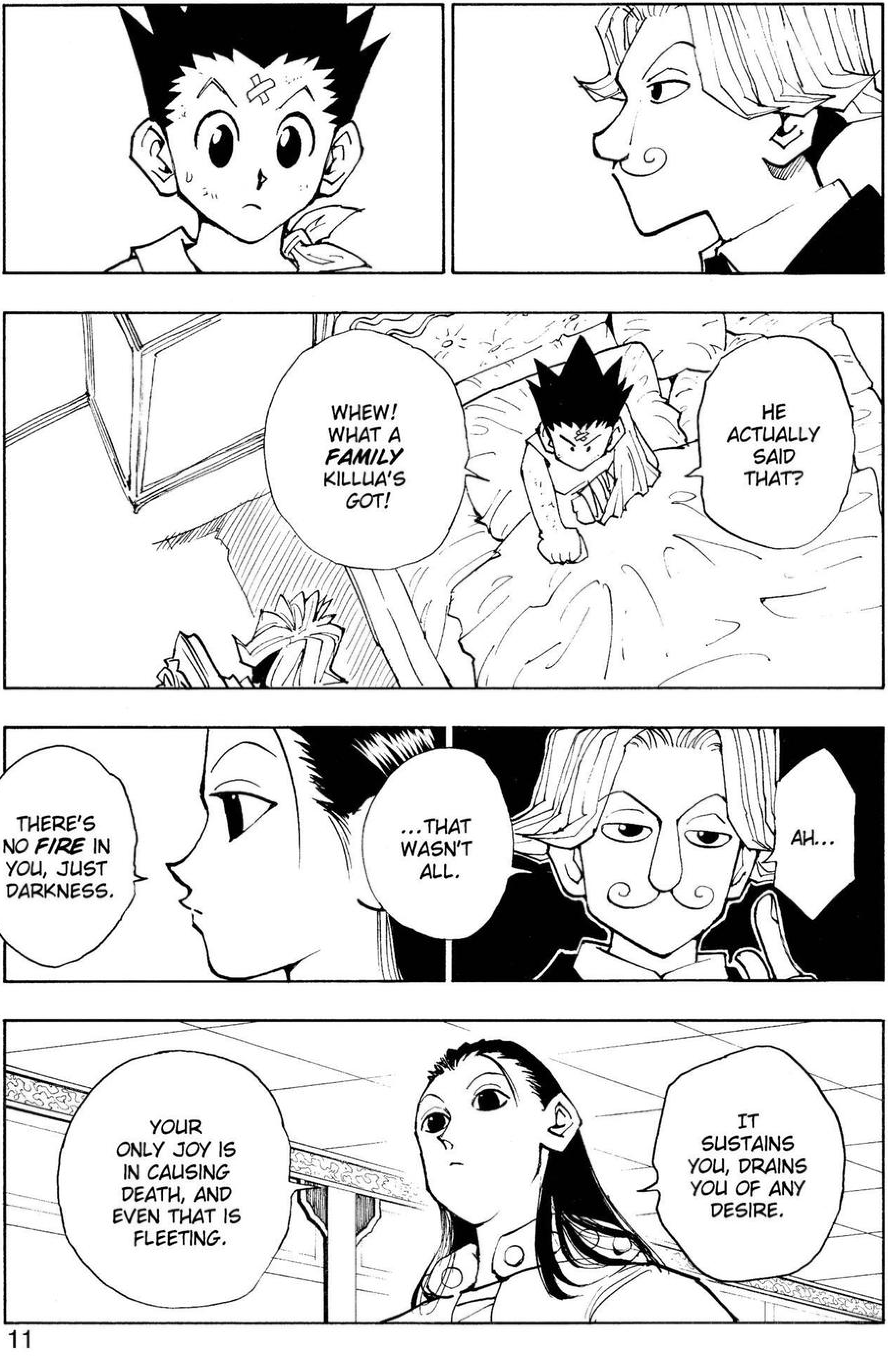

YO.
IS THAT KILLUA'S ...
... BROTHER ?!

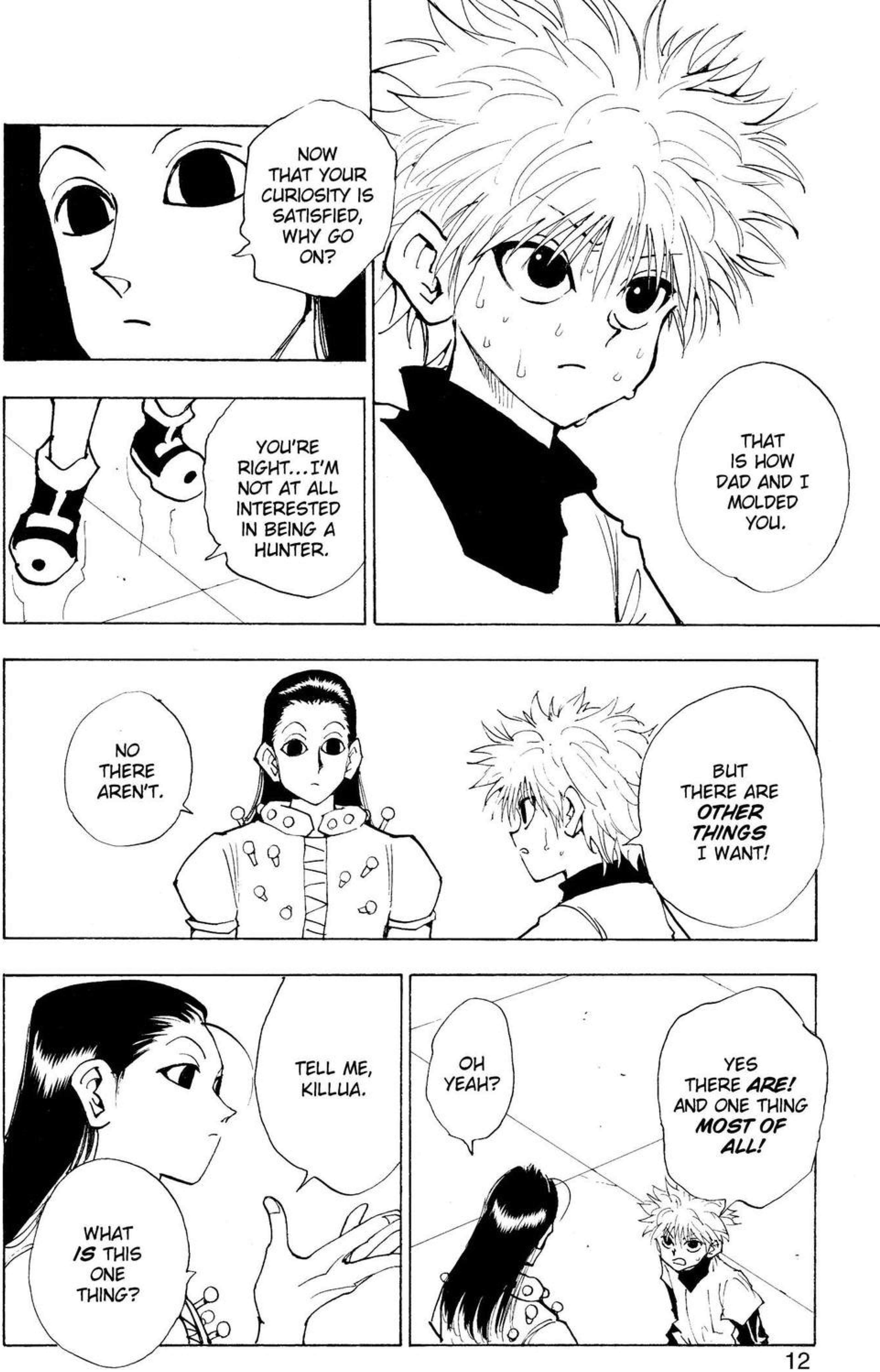
READ THIS WAY

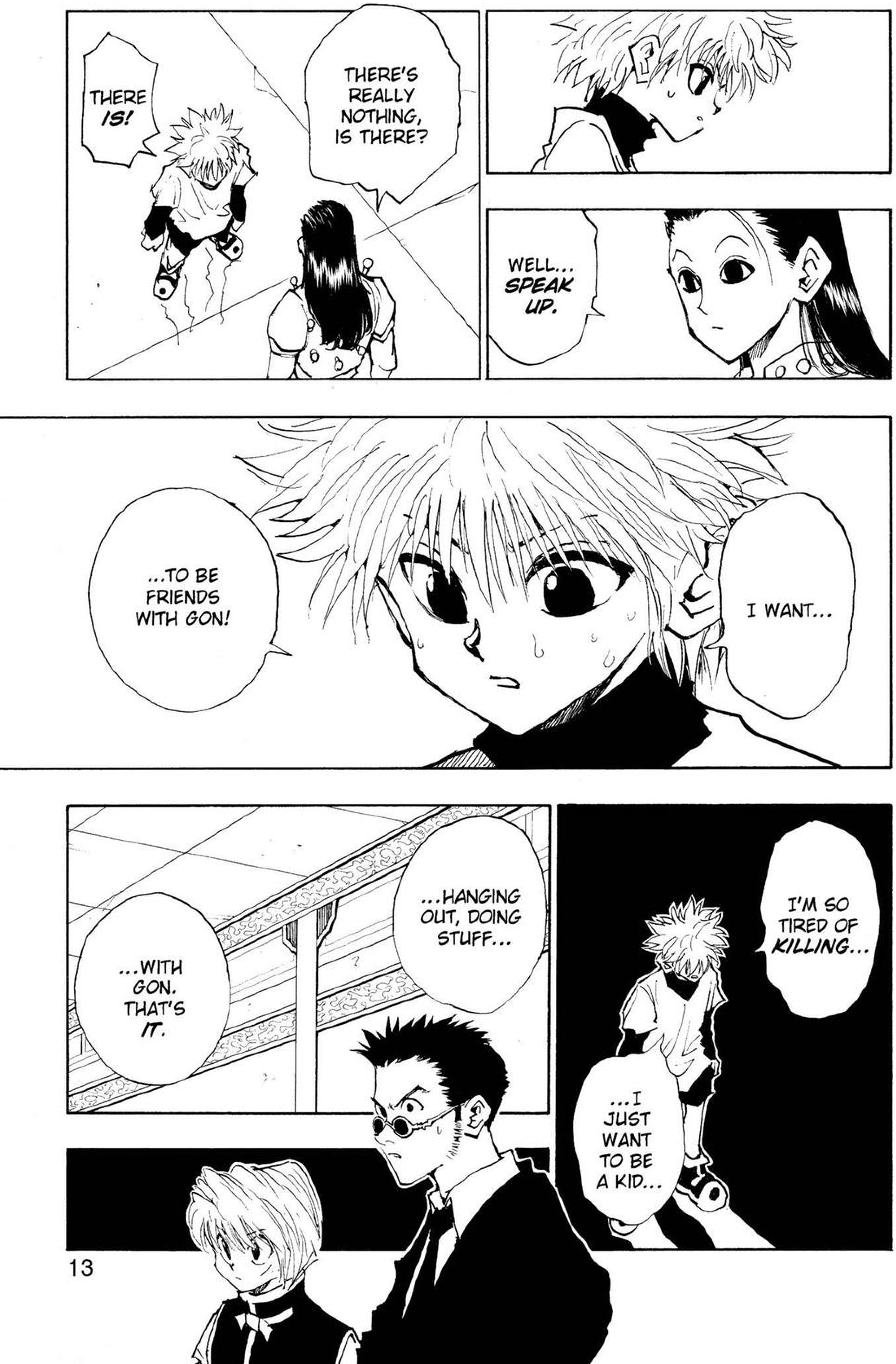

HEARD YOU *STABBED* MOM AND MILLUKI.
THAT'S ABOUT RIGHT.
MOM WAS IN TEARS.
AS IF ANYONE WOULD *BLAME* HER? GEEZ, KILLUA...
What a rotten kid.
SHE WAS SO *HAPPY*...
...TO SEE YOU'D *GAINED SUCH SKILL.*
BUT SHE'S STILL CONCERNED ABOUT YOU BEING OUT ON YOUR OWN...
...AND ASKED ME TO CHECK UP ON YOU, WHEN I GOT THE CHANCE.
I HAD NO IDEA...
...I'D FIND YOU HERE, TAKING THE EXAM.
I'M HERE TO GET A LICENSE FOR A JOB THAT'S COMING UP.

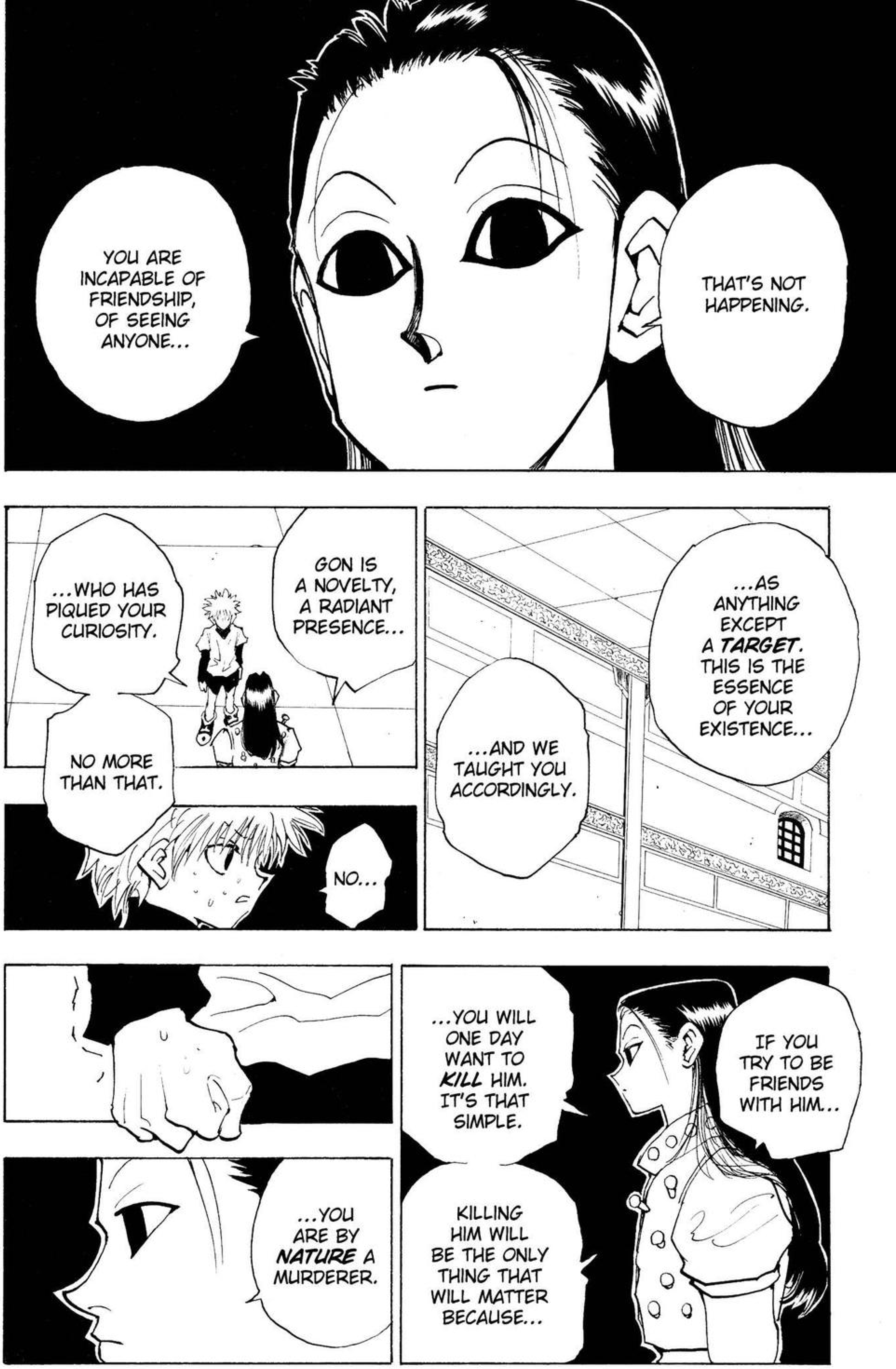

I DON'T REALLY *WANT* TO BE A HUNTER...
...I WAS JUST CURIOUS ABOUT THE TESTS.
WERE YOU? THAT'S GOOD...
...BECAUSE NOW I CAN TELL YOU...
...THAT YOU WOULD *NOT* MAKE A GOOD HUNTER.
YOUR CALLING IS AS AN *ASSASSIN.*

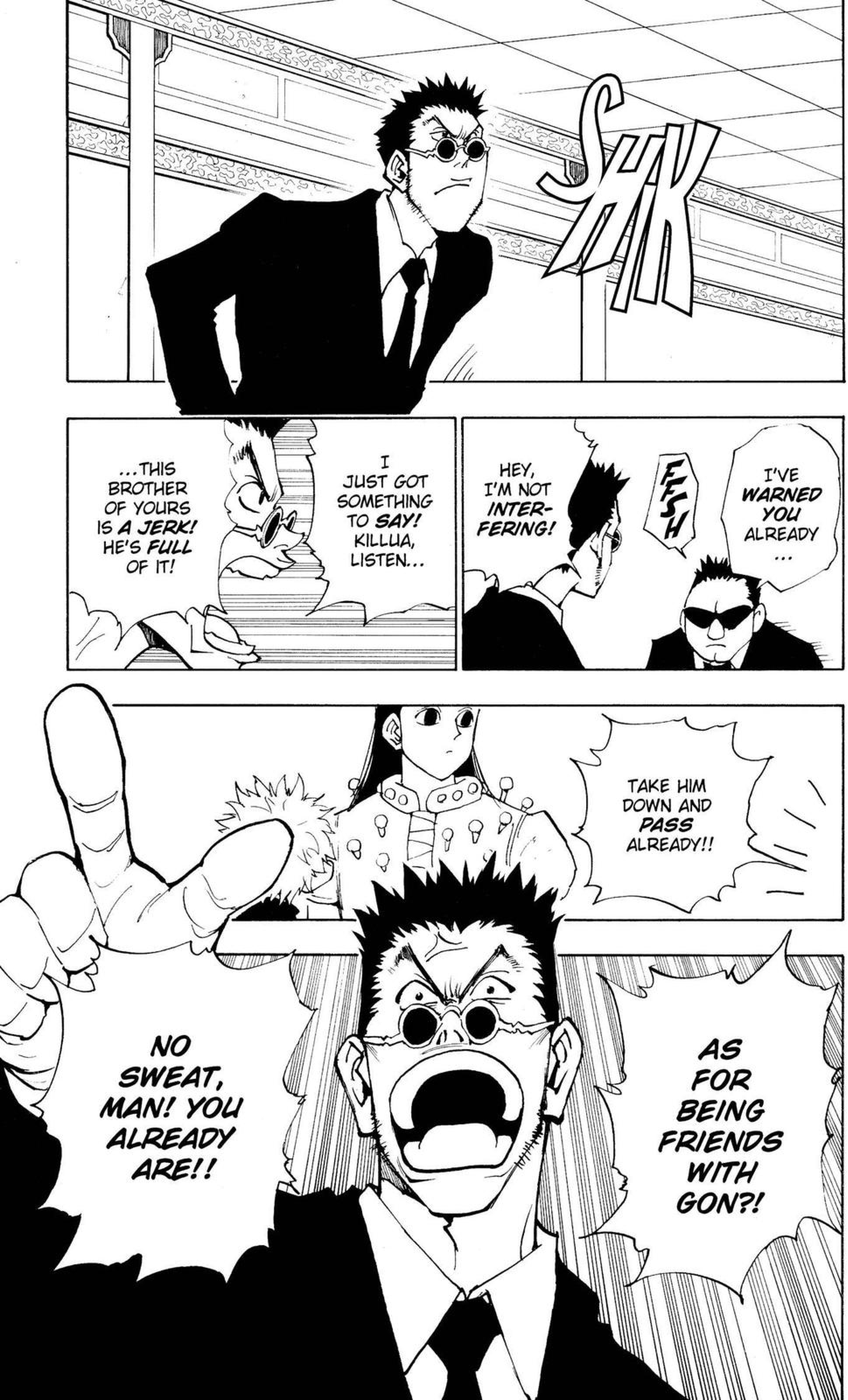
READ THIS WAY

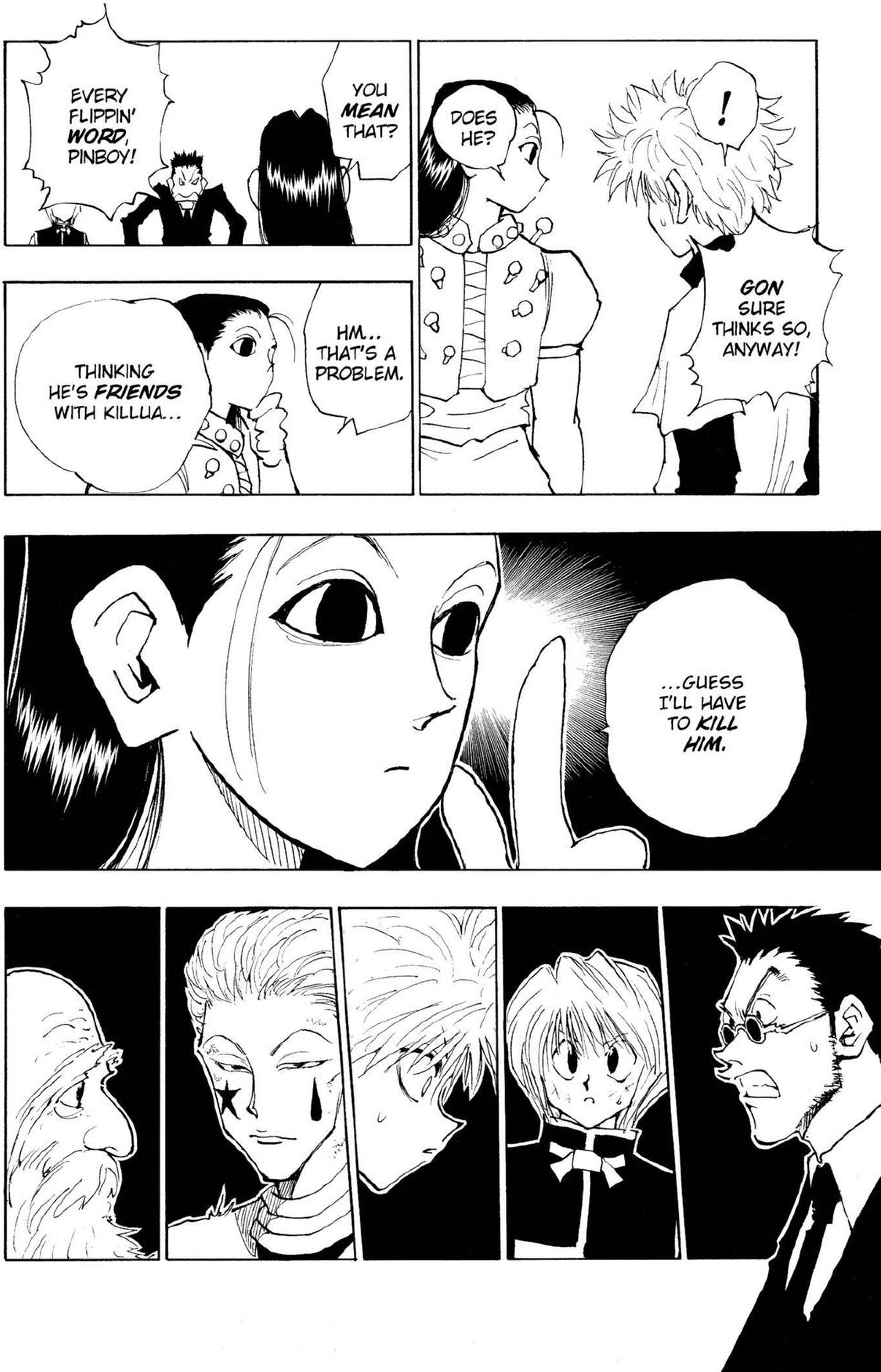

HE ACTUALLY SAID THAT?
WHEW! WHAT A FAMILY KILLUA'S GOT!
AH...
...THAT WASN'T ALL.
THERE'S NO FIRE IN YOU, JUST DARKNESS.
IT SUSTAINS YOU, DRAINS YOU OF ANY DESIRE.
YOUR ONLY JOY IS IN CAUSING DEATH, AND EVEN THAT IS FLEETING.

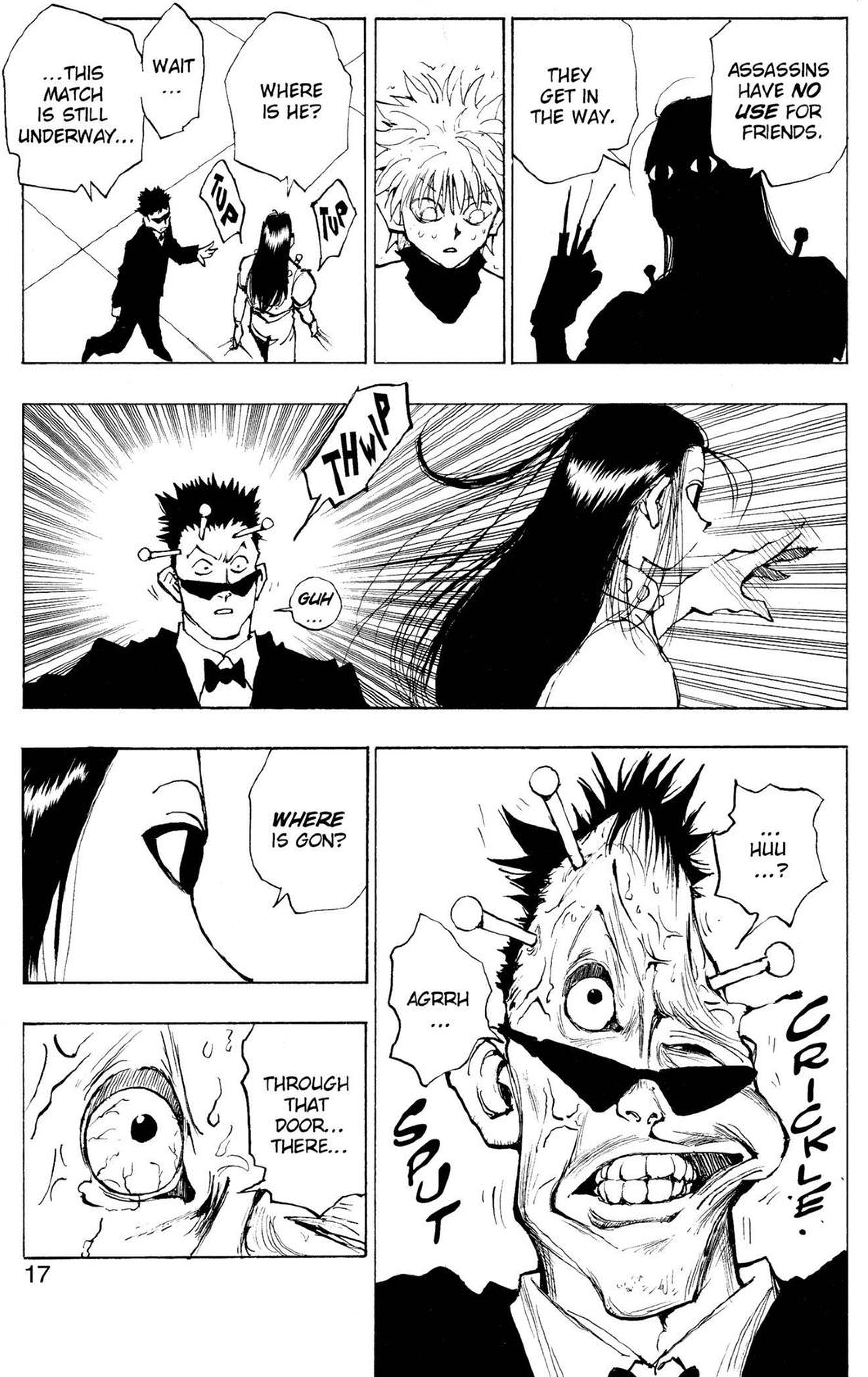

THAT IS HOW DAD AND I MOLDED YOU.
NOW THAT YOUR CURIOSITY IS SATISFIED, WHY GO ON?
YOU'RE RIGHT...I'M NOT AT ALL INTERESTED IN BEING A HUNTER.
BUT THERE ARE *OTHER THINGS* I WANT!
NO THERE AREN'T.
YES THERE *ARE!* AND ONE THING *MOST OF ALL!*
OH YEAH?
TELL ME, KILLUA.
WHAT *IS* THIS ONE THING?

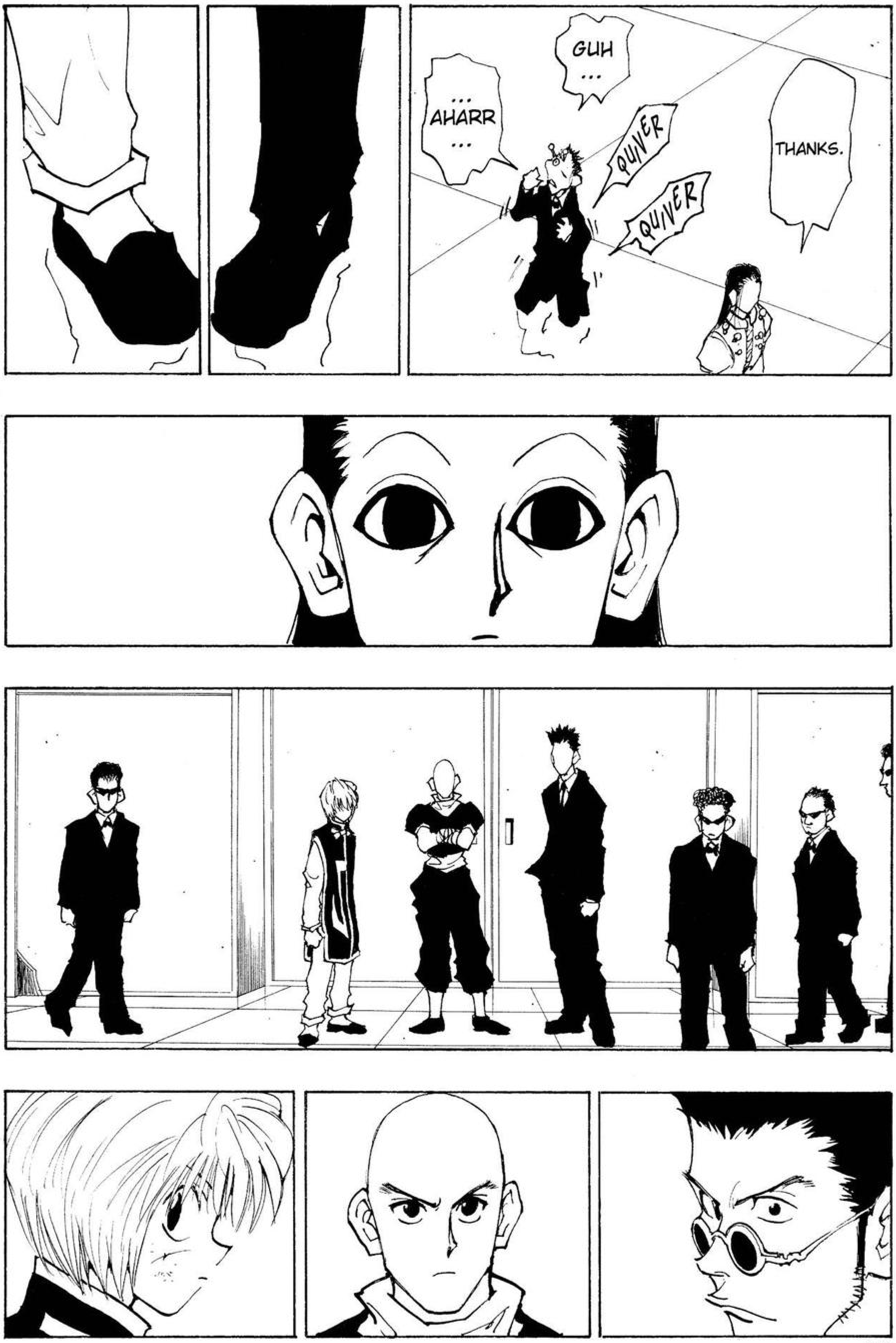

THERE'S REALLY NOTHING, IS THERE?
THERE *IS!*
WELL... ***SPEAK UP.***
I WANT...
...TO BE FRIENDS WITH GON!
I'M SO TIRED OF ***KILLING***...
...I JUST WANT TO BE A KID...
...HANGING OUT, DOING STUFF...
...WITH GON. THAT'S *IT.*

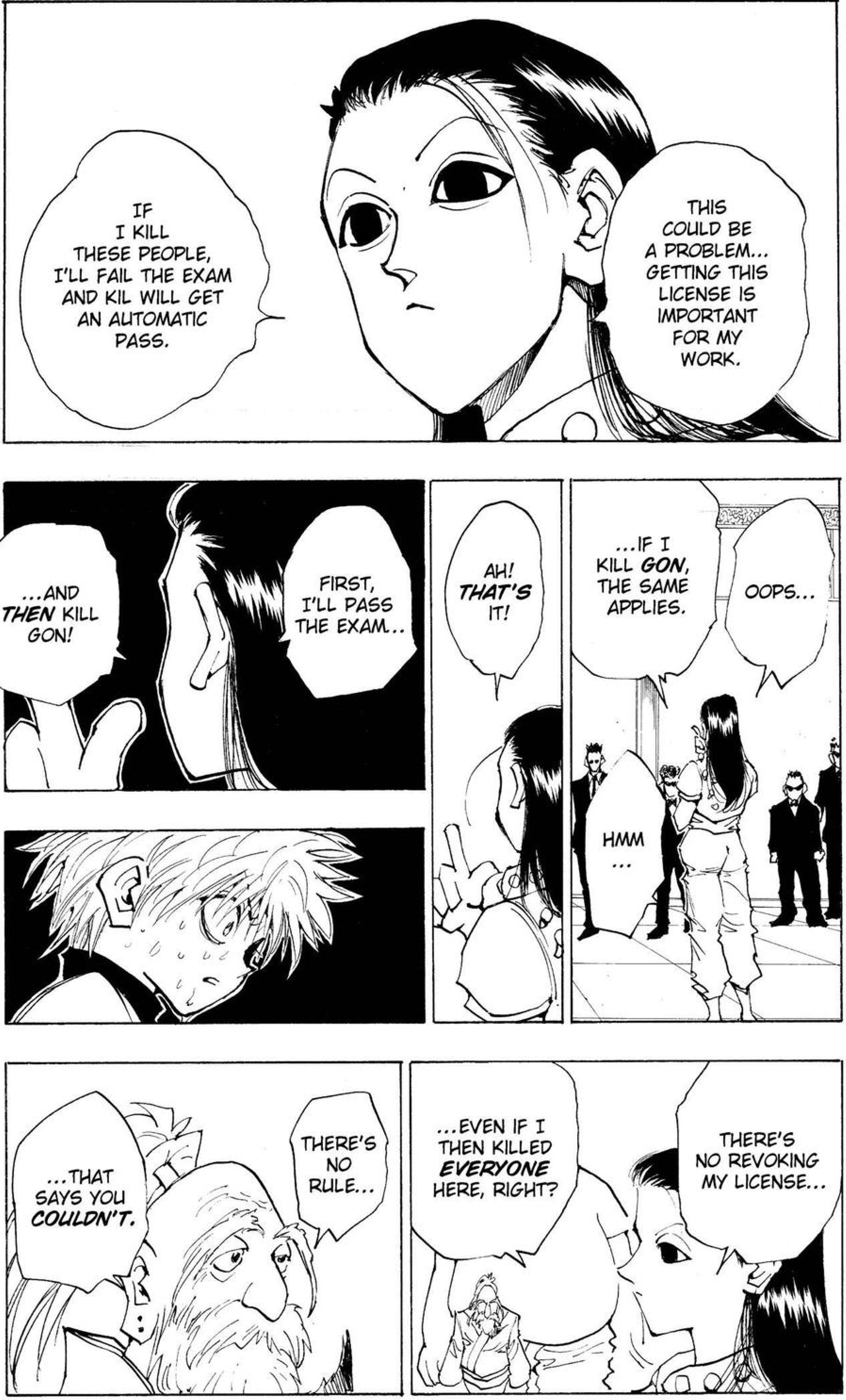

THAT'S NOT HAPPENING.
YOU ARE INCAPABLE OF FRIENDSHIP, OF SEEING ANYONE...
...AS ANYTHING EXCEPT A ***TARGET.*** THIS IS THE ESSENCE OF YOUR EXISTENCE...
...AND WE TAUGHT YOU ACCORDINGLY.
GON IS A NOVELTY, A RADIANT PRESENCE...
...WHO HAS PIQUED YOUR CURIOSITY.
NO MORE THAN THAT.
NO...
IF YOU TRY TO BE FRIENDS WITH HIM...
...YOU WILL ONE DAY WANT TO ***KILL*** HIM. IT'S THAT SIMPLE.
KILLING HIM WILL BE THE ONLY THING THAT WILL MATTER BECAUSE...
...YOU ARE BY ***NATURE*** A MURDERER.

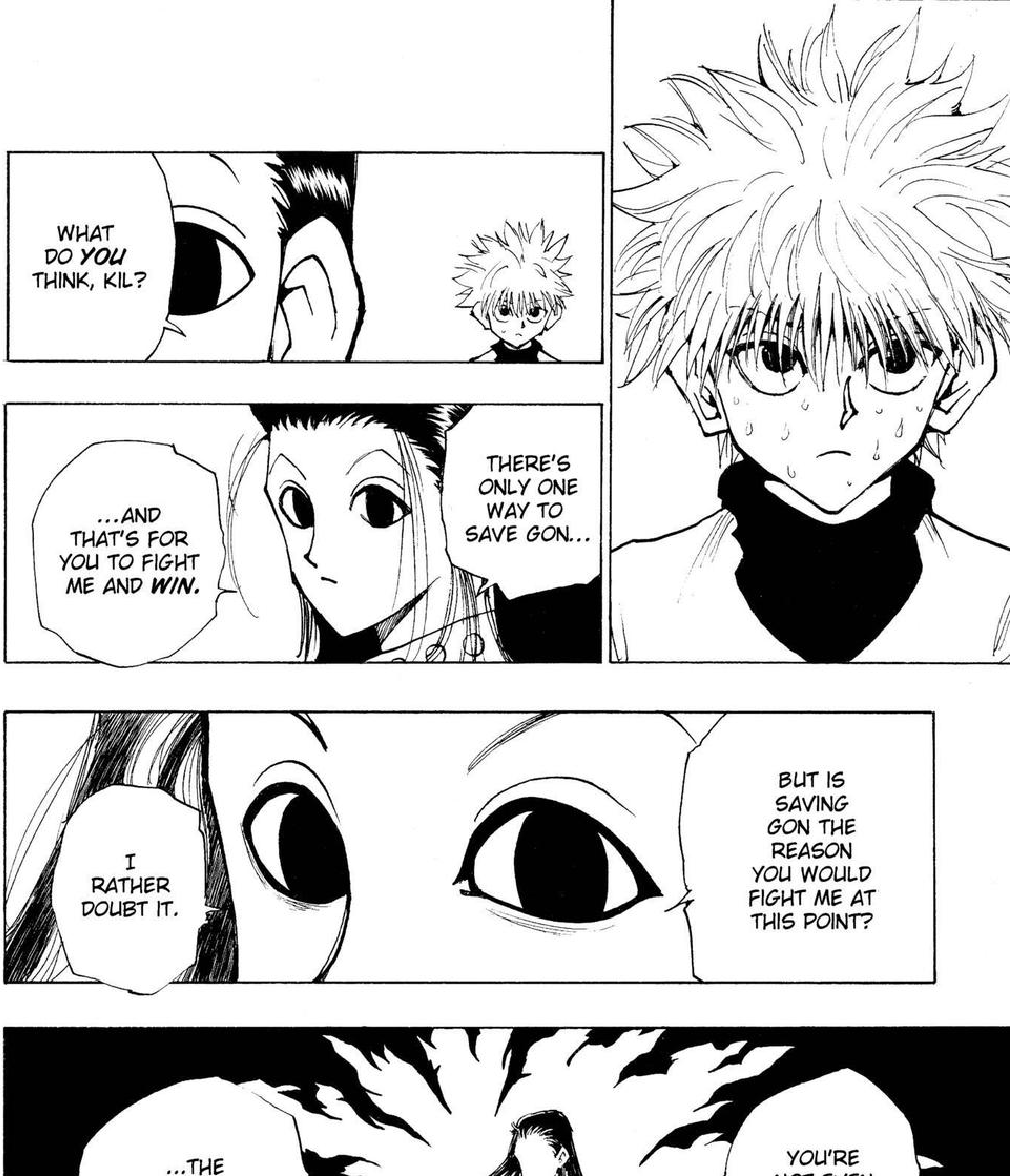

SHK
I'VE WARNED YOU ALREADY...
FFSH
HEY, I'M NOT INTERFERING!
I JUST GOT SOMETHING TO SAY! KILLUA, LISTEN...
...THIS BROTHER OF YOURS IS A JERK! HE'S FULL OF IT!
TAKE HIM DOWN AND PASS ALREADY!!
AS FOR BEING FRIENDS WITH GON?!
NO SWEAT, MAN! YOU ALREADY ARE!!


GON SURE THINKS SO, ANYWAY!
DOES HE?
!
YOU MEAN THAT?
EVERY FLIPPIN' WORD, PINBOY!
HM.. THAT'S A PROBLEM.
THINKING HE'S FRIENDS WITH KILLUA...
...GUESS I'LL HAVE TO KILL HIM.

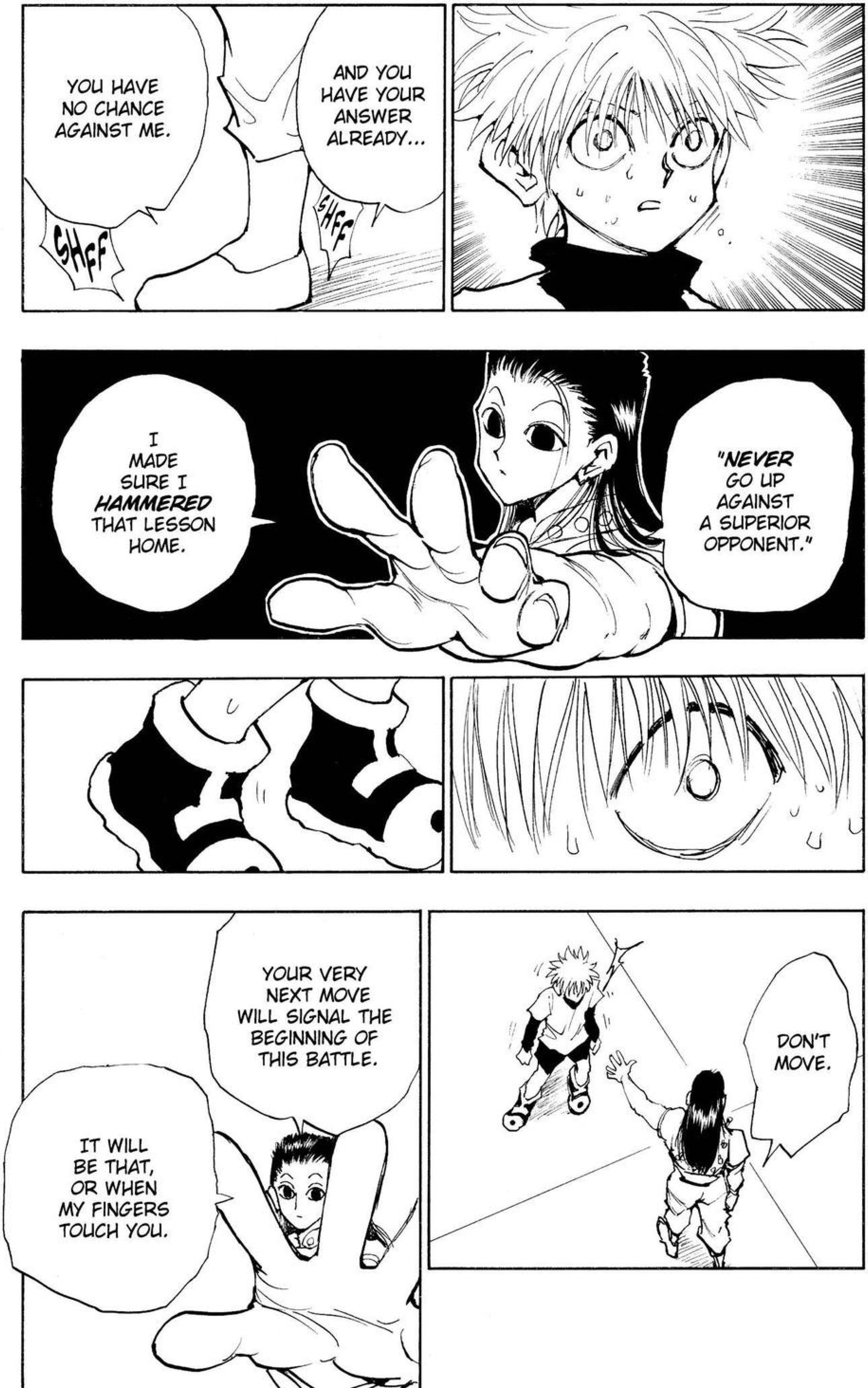

ASSASSINS HAVE **NO USE** FOR FRIENDS.
THEY GET IN THE WAY.
WHERE IS HE?
WAIT ...
...THIS MATCH IS STILL UNDERWAY...
TUP
TUP
THWIP
GUH ...
... HUU ...?
AGRRH ...
CRICKLE.
SPUT
WHERE IS GON?
THROUGH THAT DOOR... THERE...

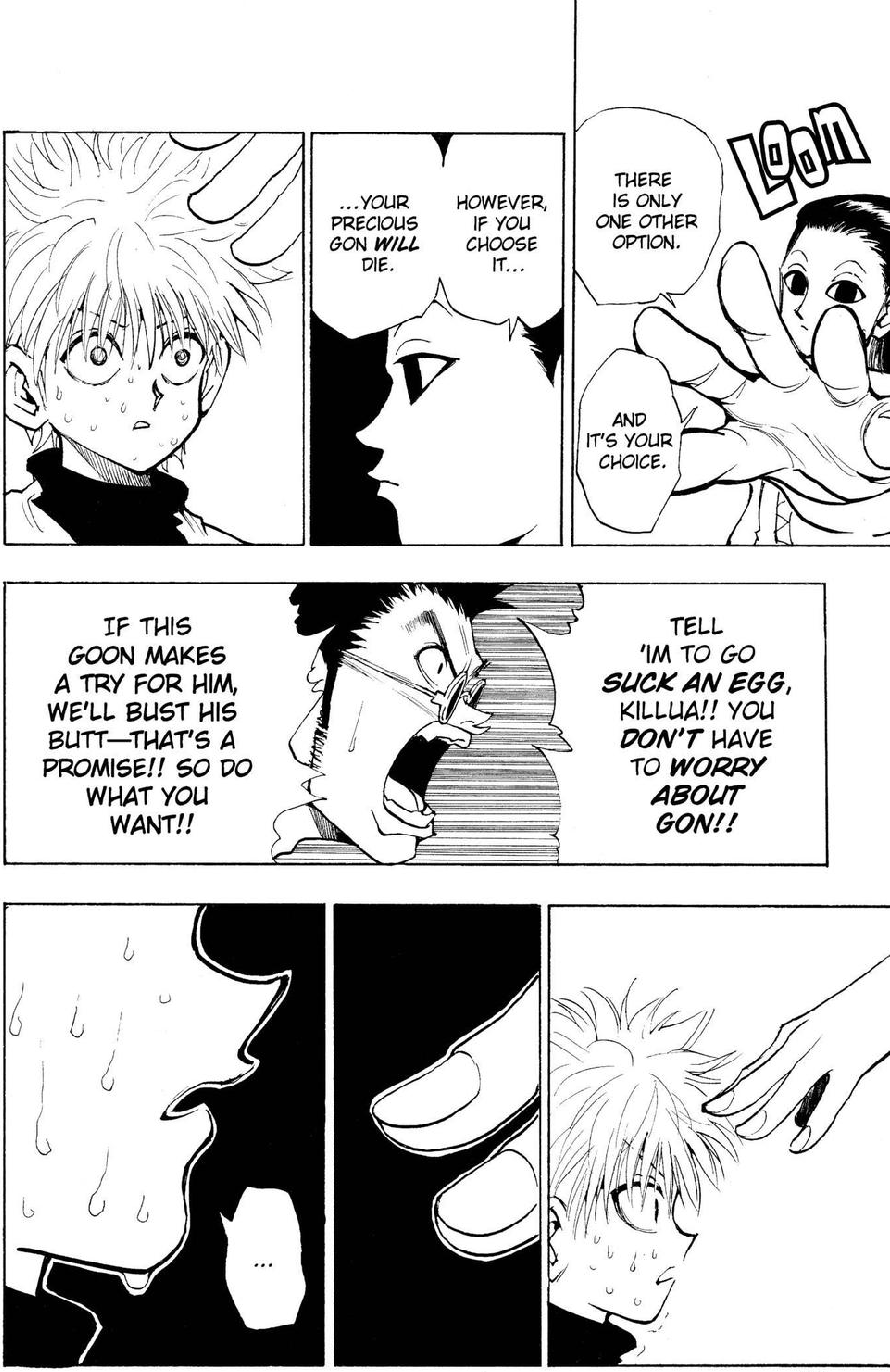

THANKS.
QUIVER
QUIVER
GUH ...
... AHARR ...

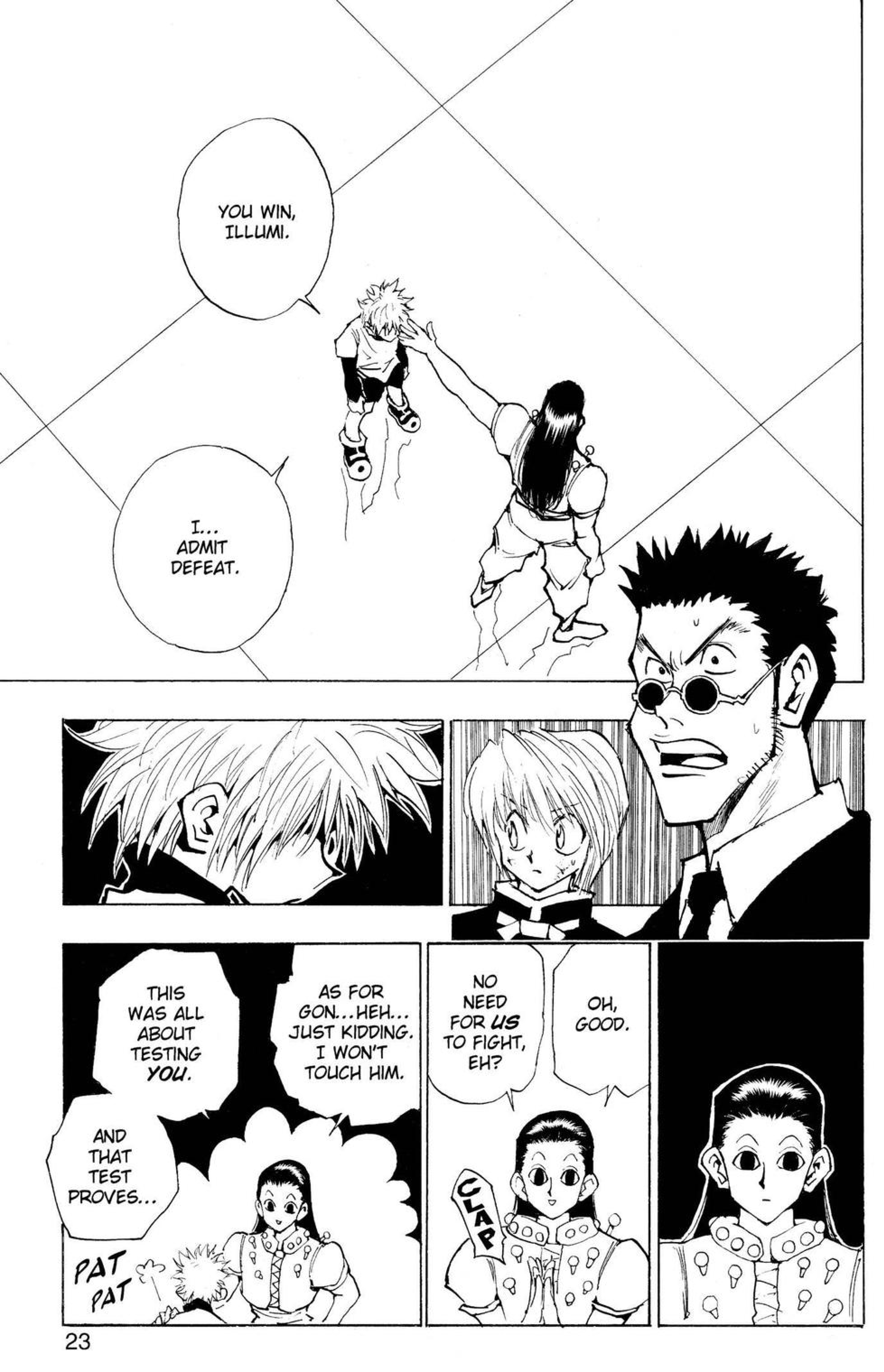

THIS COULD BE A PROBLEM... GETTING THIS LICENSE IS IMPORTANT FOR MY WORK.
IF I KILL THESE PEOPLE, I'LL FAIL THE EXAM AND KIL WILL GET AN AUTOMATIC PASS.
OOPS...
...IF I KILL **GON**, THE SAME APPLIES.
HMM ...
AH! **THAT'S** IT!
FIRST, I'LL PASS THE EXAM...
...AND **THEN** KILL GON!
THERE'S NO REVOKING MY LICENSE...
...EVEN IF I THEN KILLED **EVERYONE** HERE, RIGHT?
THERE'S NO RULE...
...THAT SAYS YOU **COULDN'T.**

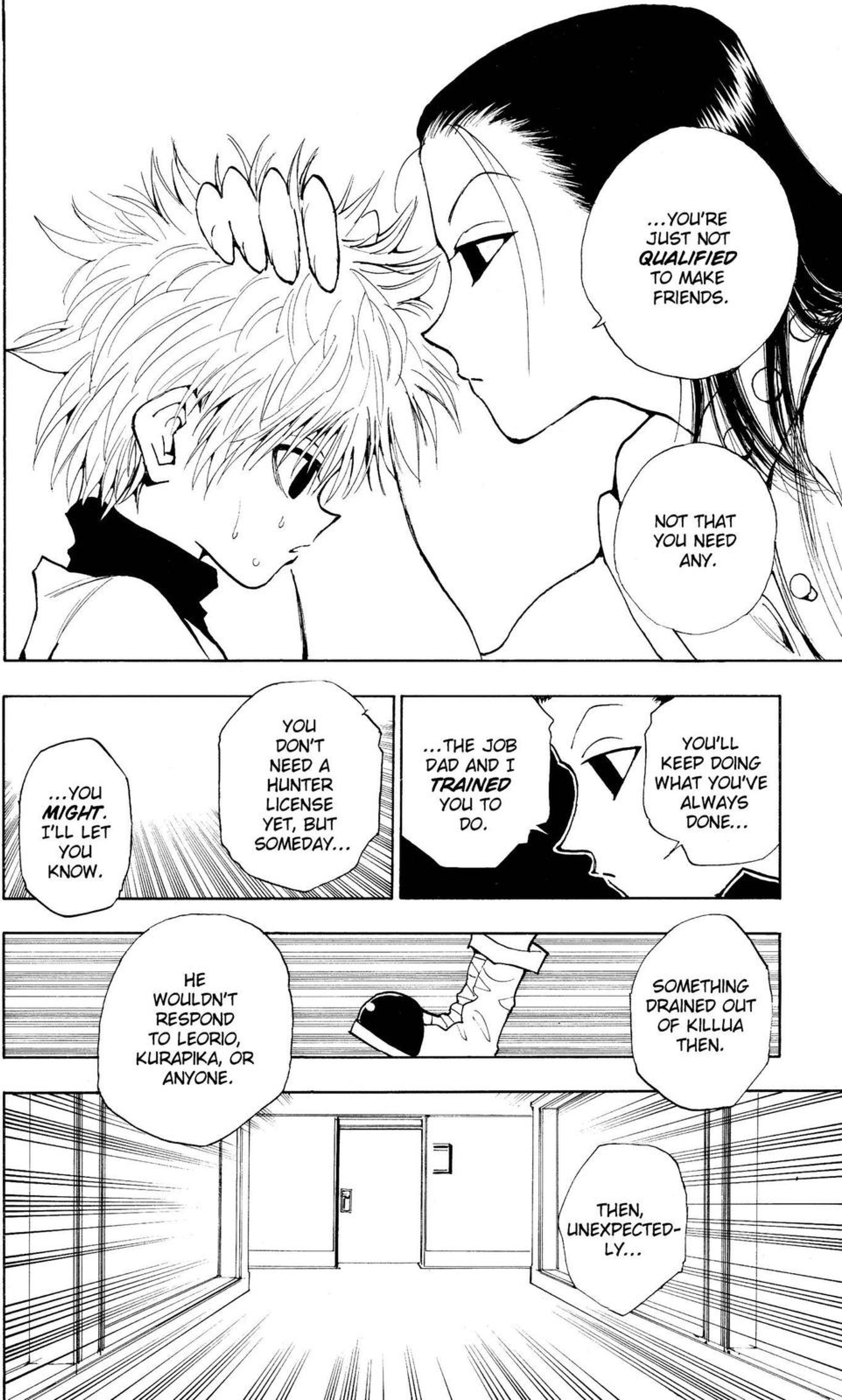

WHAT DO *YOU* THINK, KIL?
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO SAVE GON...
...AND THAT'S FOR YOU TO FIGHT ME AND *WIN.*
BUT IS SAVING GON THE REASON YOU WOULD FIGHT ME AT THIS POINT?
I RATHER DOUBT IT.
YOU'RE NOT EVEN THINKING ABOUT YOUR "FRIEND" RIGHT NOW...
...THE ONLY QUESTION IN YOUR MIND IS WHETHER YOU CAN BEAT ME OR NOT!

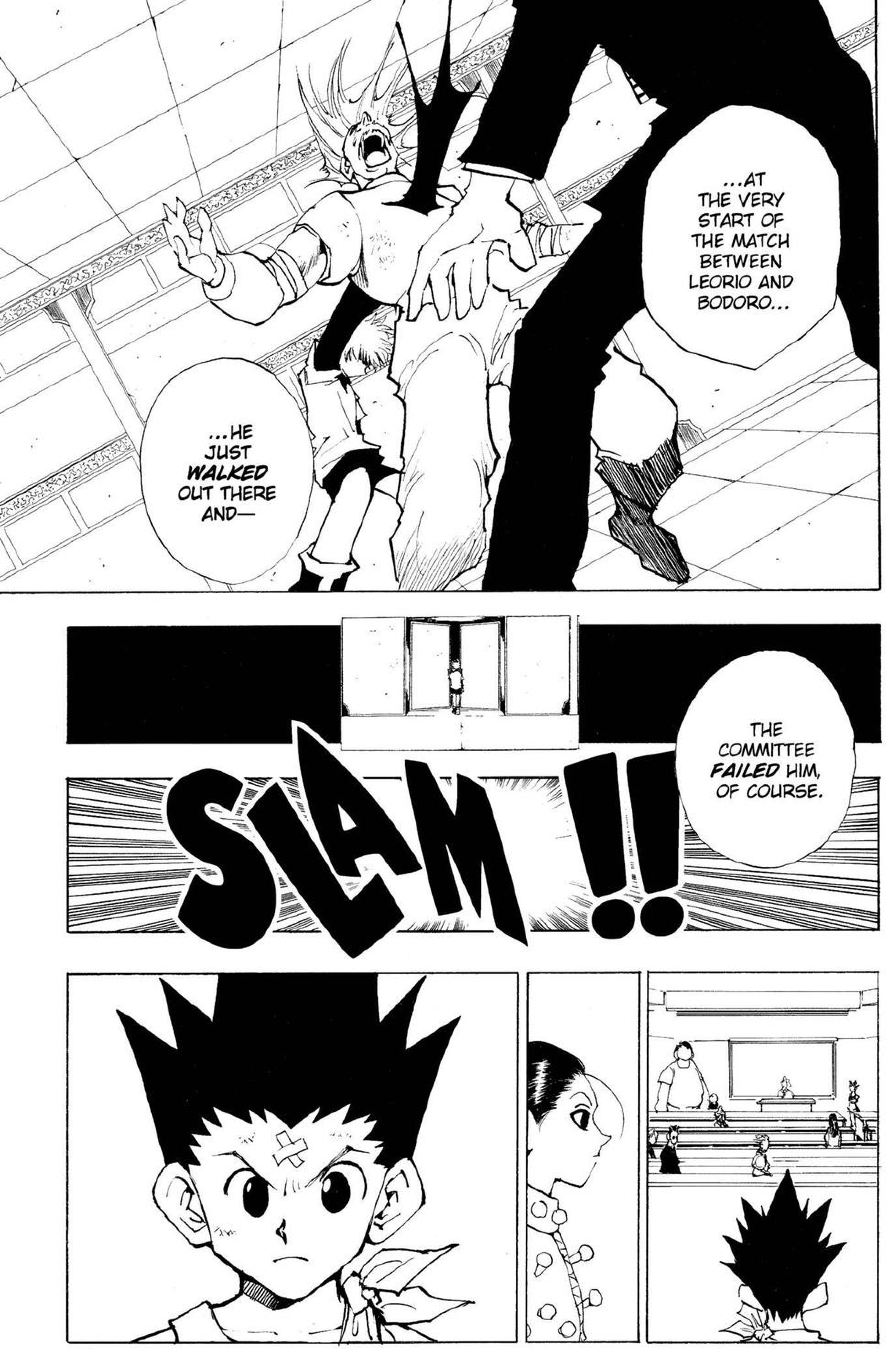
READ THIS WAY


YOU HAVE NO CHANCE AGAINST ME.
AND YOU HAVE YOUR ANSWER ALREADY...
SHFF
SHFF
"*NEVER* GO UP AGAINST A SUPERIOR OPPONENT."
I MADE SURE I *HAMMERED* THAT LESSON HOME.
DON'T MOVE.
YOUR VERY NEXT MOVE WILL SIGNAL THE BEGINNING OF THIS BATTLE.
IT WILL BE THAT, OR WHEN MY FINGERS TOUCH YOU.

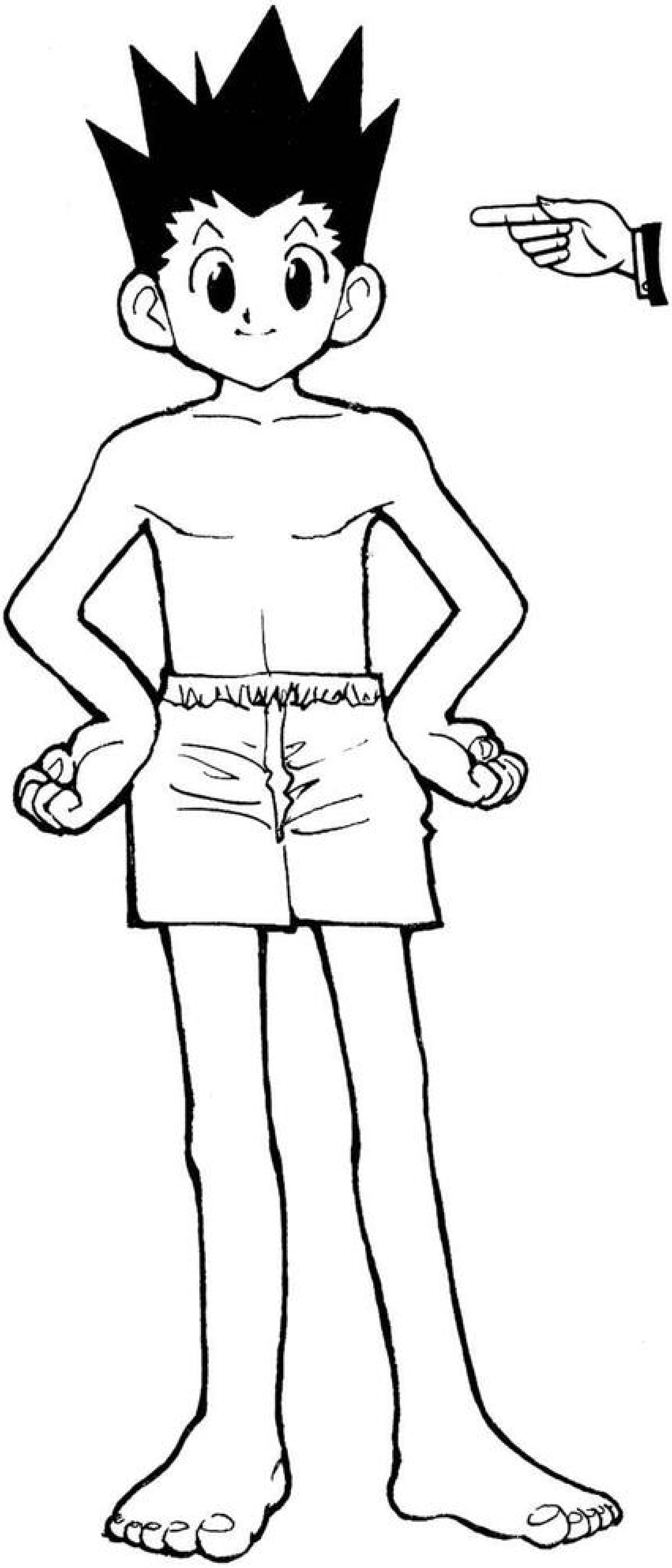

LOOON
THERE IS ONLY ONE OTHER OPTION.
AND IT'S YOUR CHOICE.
HOWEVER, IF YOU CHOOSE IT...
...YOUR PRECIOUS GON **WILL** DIE.
TELL 'IM TO GO **SUCK AN EGG**, KILLUA!! YOU **DON'T** HAVE TO **WORRY ABOUT GON!!**
IF THIS GOON MAKES A TRY FOR HIM, WE'LL BUST HIS BUTT—THAT'S A PROMISE!! SO DO WHAT YOU WANT!!
...


YOU WIN, ILLUMI.
I... ADMIT DEFEAT.
OH, GOOD.
NO NEED FOR *US* TO FIGHT, EH?
CLAP
AS FOR GON...HEH... JUST KIDDING. I WON'T TOUCH HIM.
THIS WAS ALL ABOUT TESTING *YOU*.
AND THAT TEST PROVES...
PAT PAT


...YOU'RE JUST NOT **QUALIFIED** TO MAKE FRIENDS.
NOT THAT YOU NEED ANY.
YOU'LL KEEP DOING WHAT YOU'VE ALWAYS DONE...
...THE JOB DAD AND I **TRAINED** YOU TO DO.
YOU DON'T NEED A HUNTER LICENSE YET, BUT SOMEDAY...
...YOU **MIGHT**. I'LL LET YOU KNOW.
SOMETHING DRAINED OUT OF KILLUA THEN.
HE WOULDN'T RESPOND TO LEORIO, KURAPIKA, OR ANYONE.
THEN, UNEXPECTEDLY...

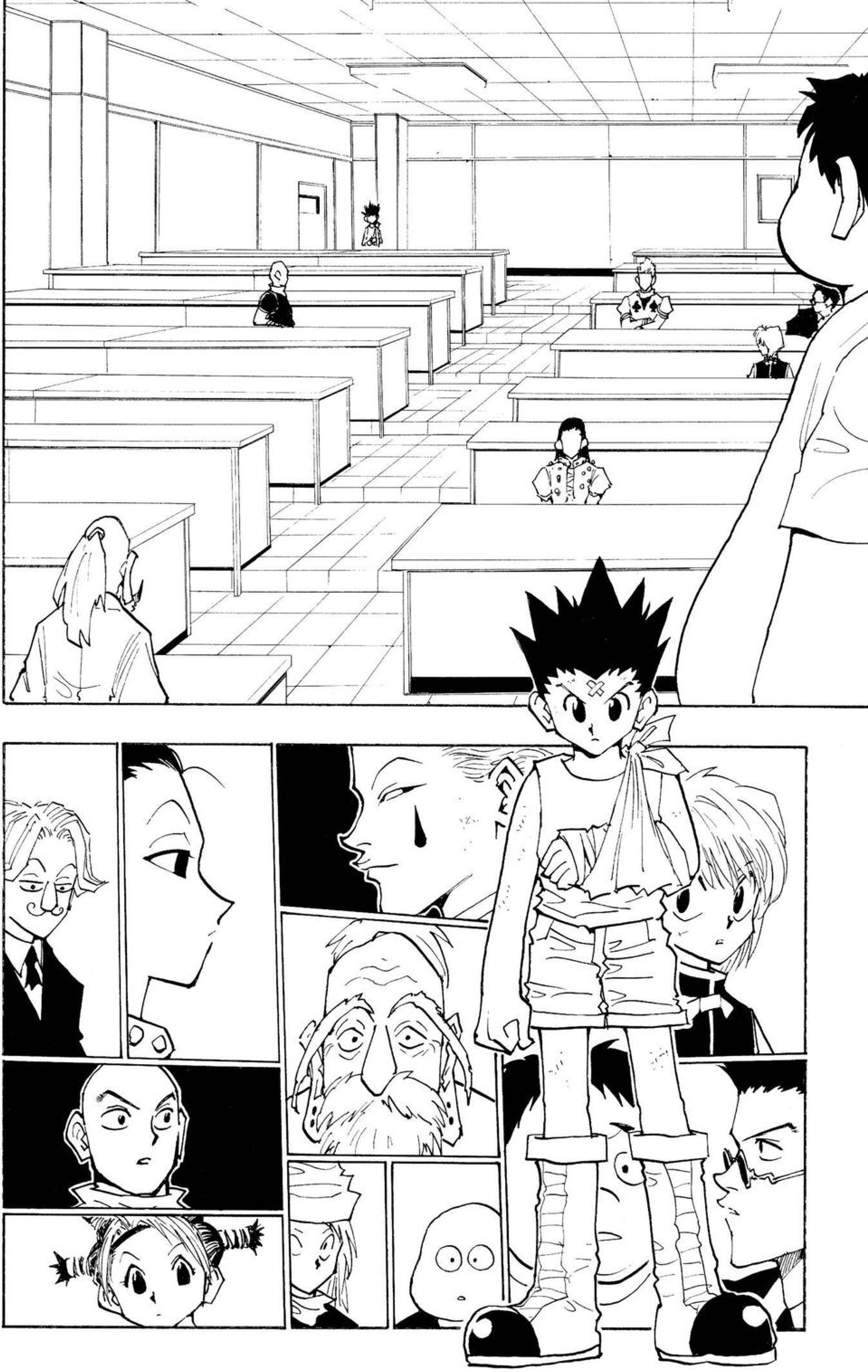

...AT THE VERY START OF THE MATCH BETWEEN LEORIO AND BODORO...
...HE JUST **WALKED** OUT THERE AND—
THE COMMITTEE **FAILED** HIM, OF COURSE.
SLAM!!

Dress-up Gon

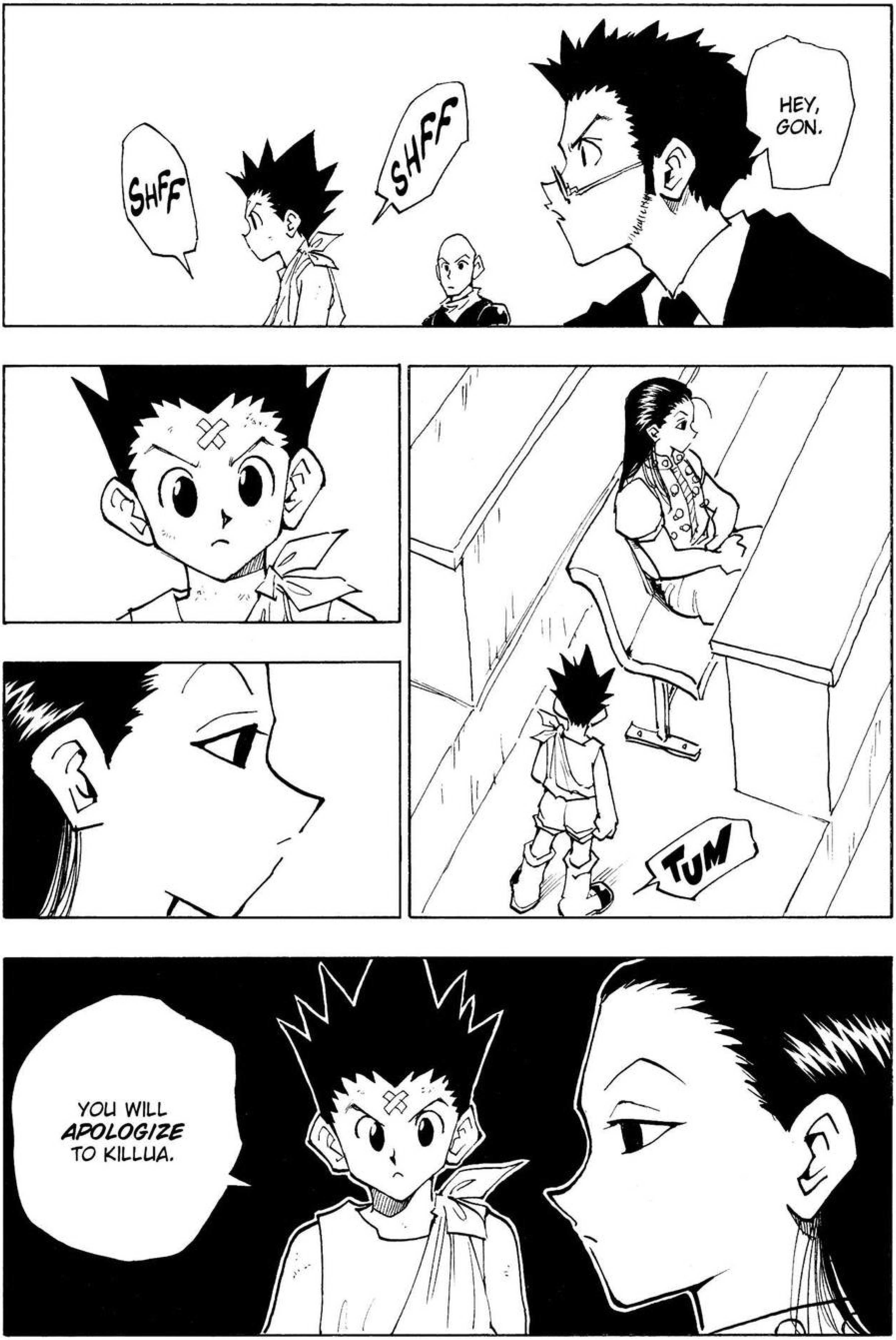


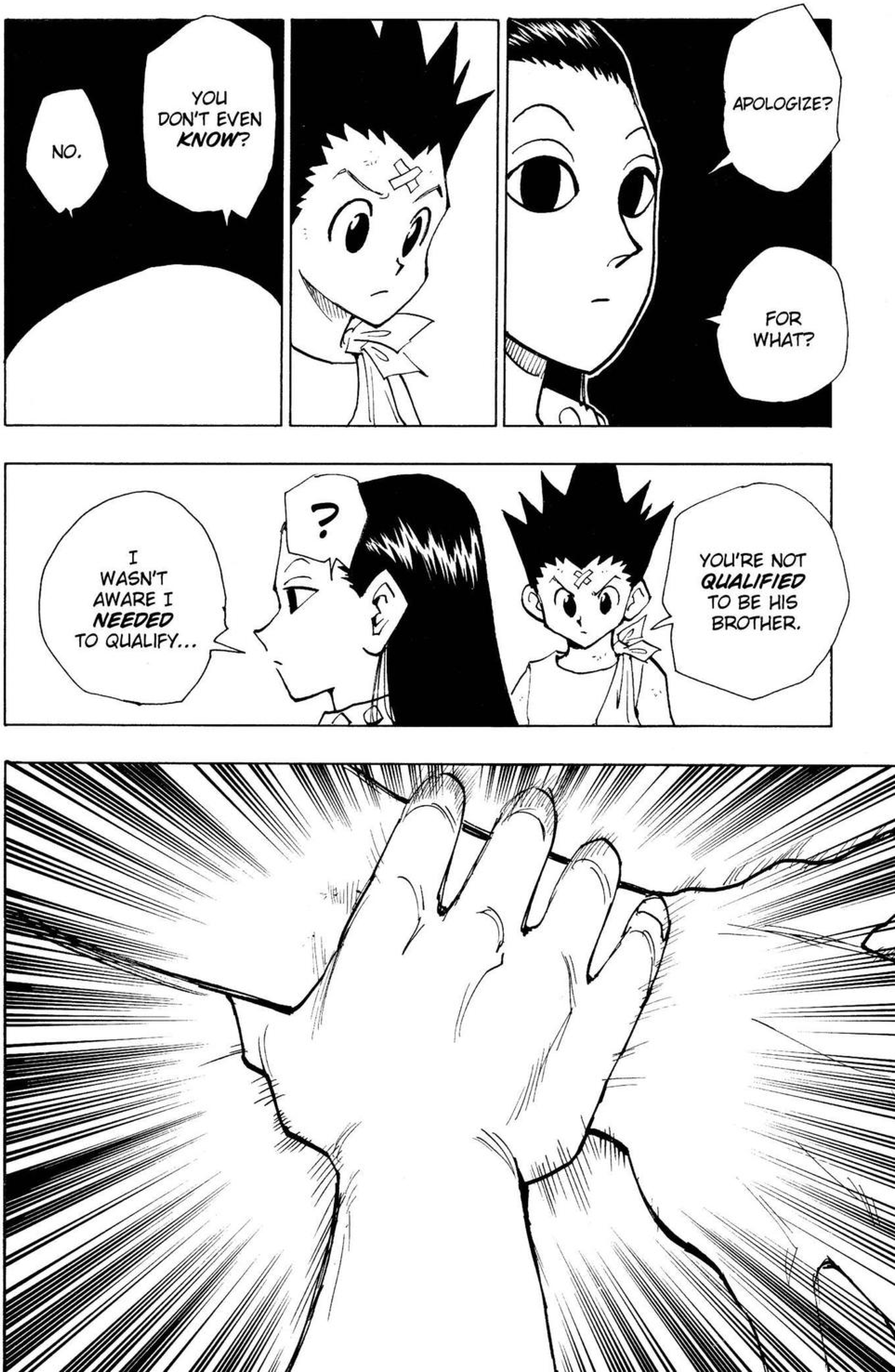
Chapter 37

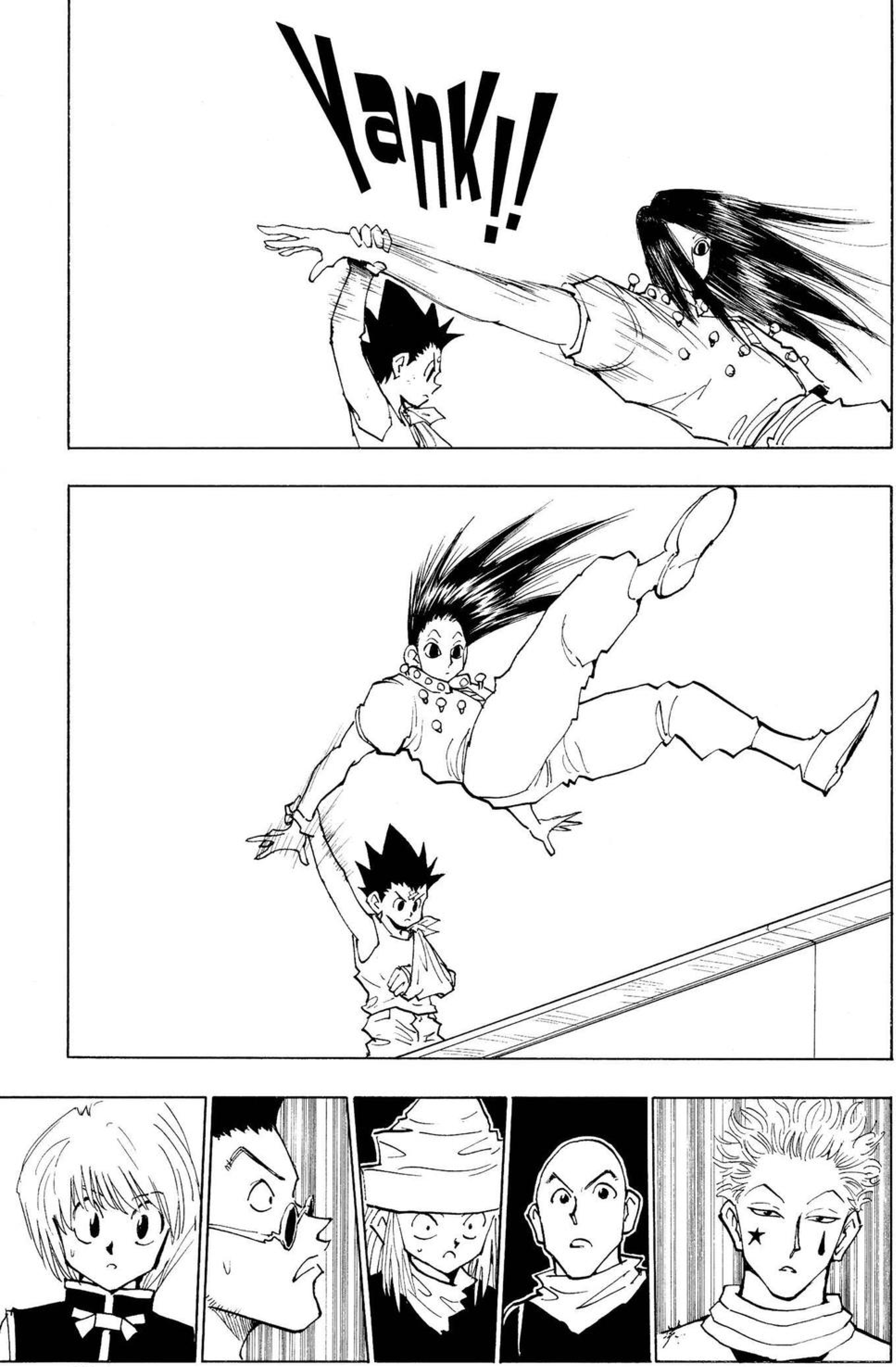
Light and Darkness, part 3

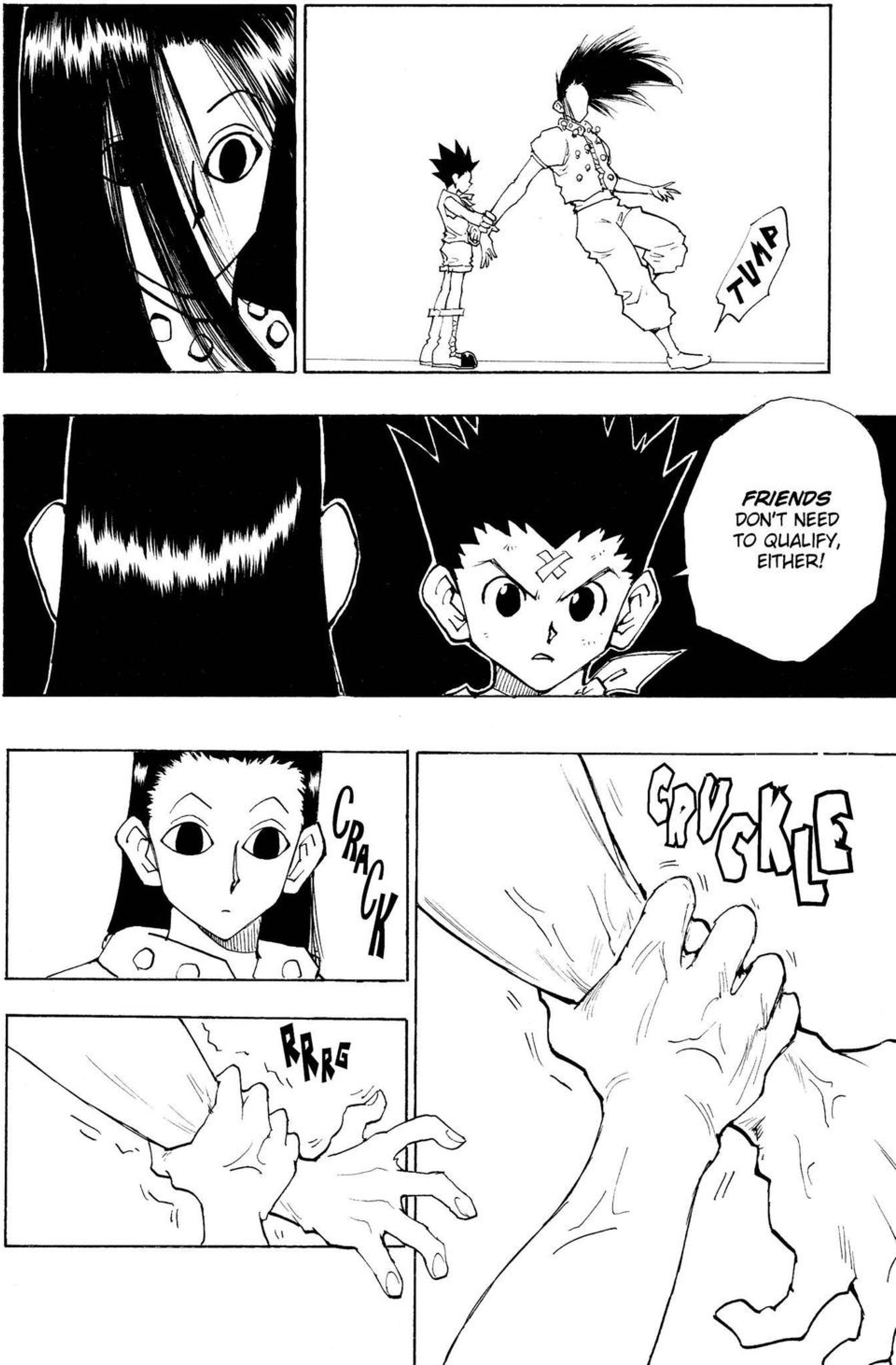


READ THIS WAY

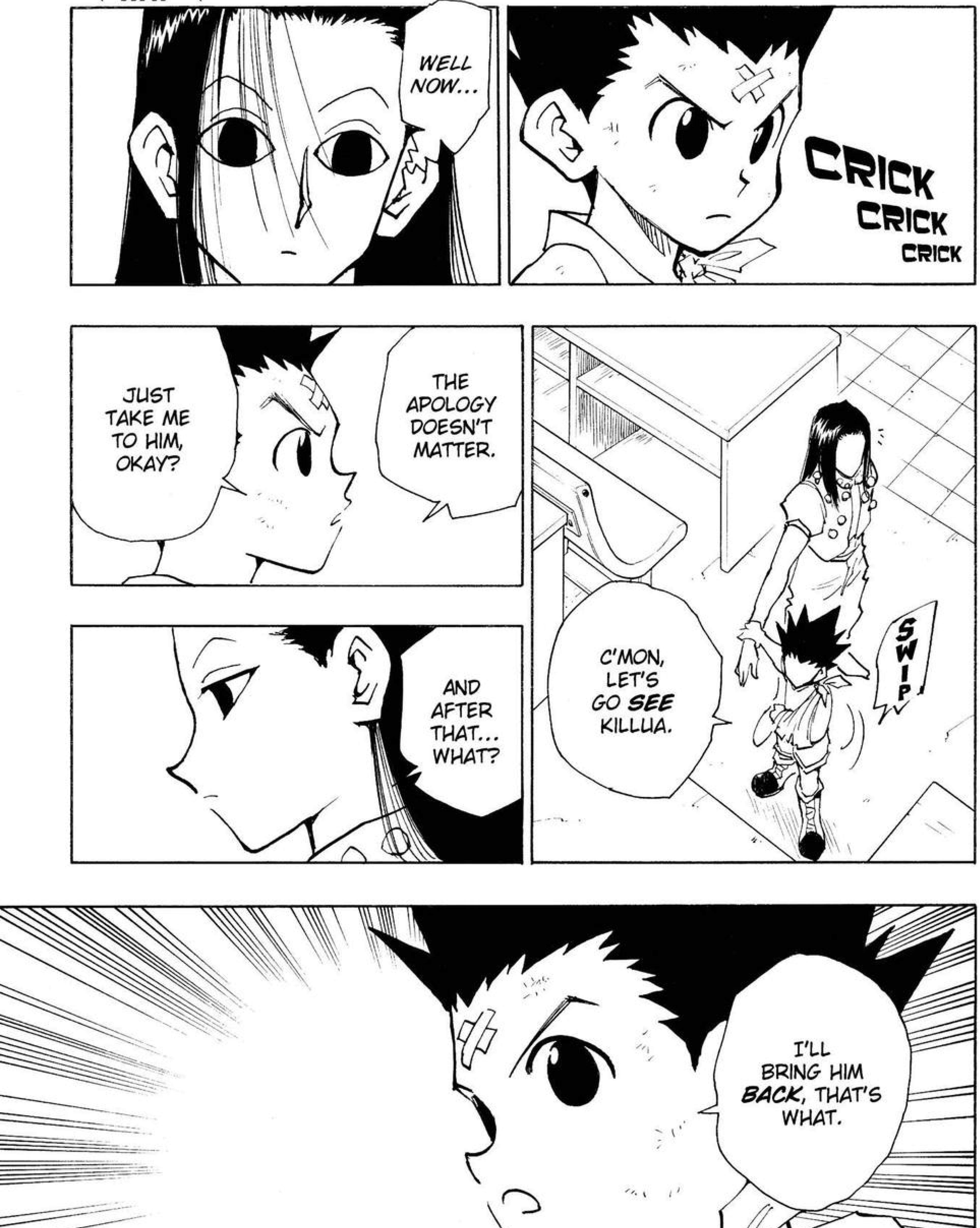

HEY, GON.
SHFF
SHFF
TUM
YOU WILL **APOLOGIZE** TO KILLUA.

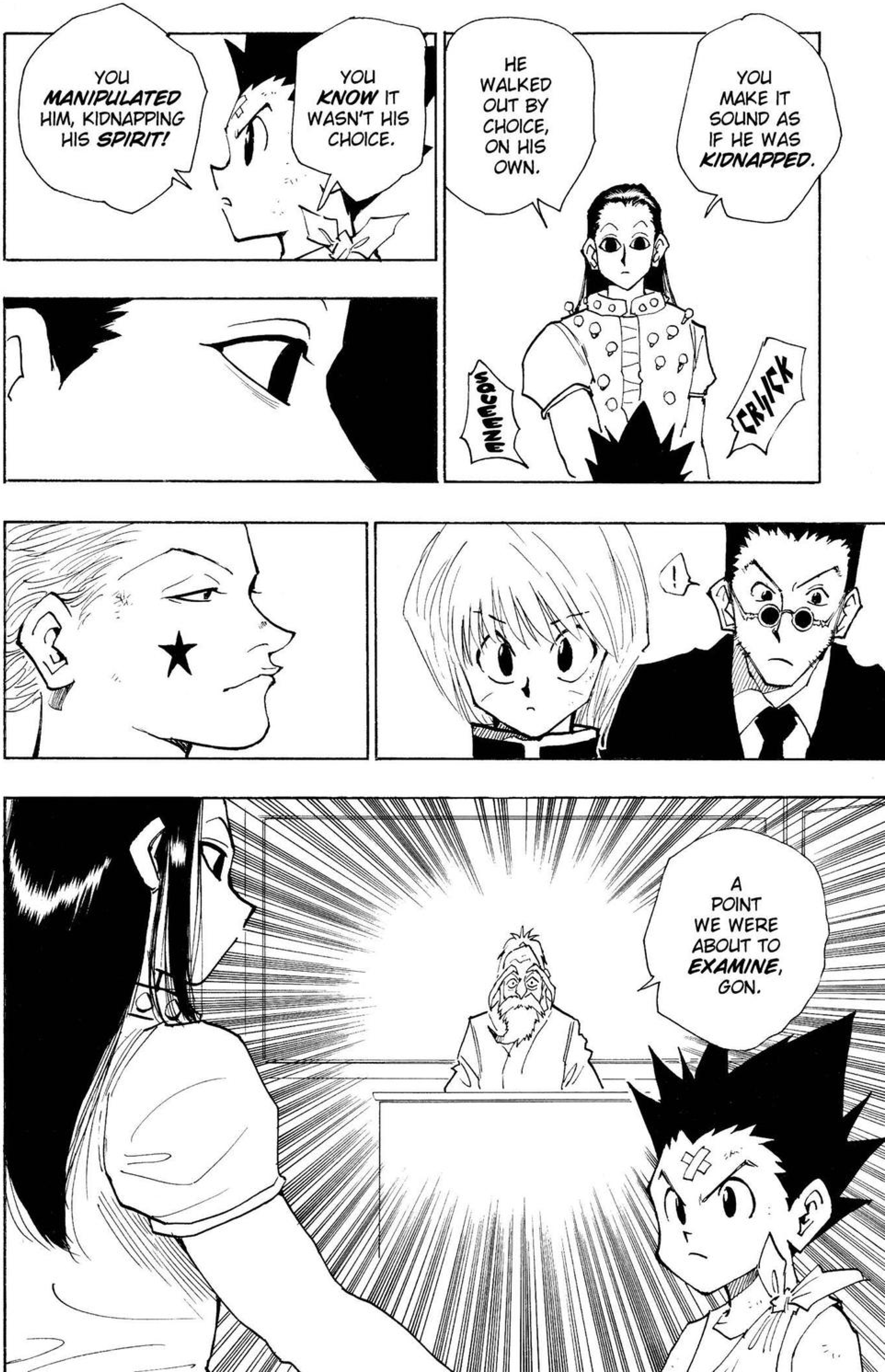

APOLOGIZE?
FOR WHAT?
YOU DON'T EVEN *KNOW*?
NO.
YOU'RE NOT *QUALIFIED* TO BE HIS BROTHER.
?
I WASN'T AWARE I *NEEDED* TO QUALIFY...

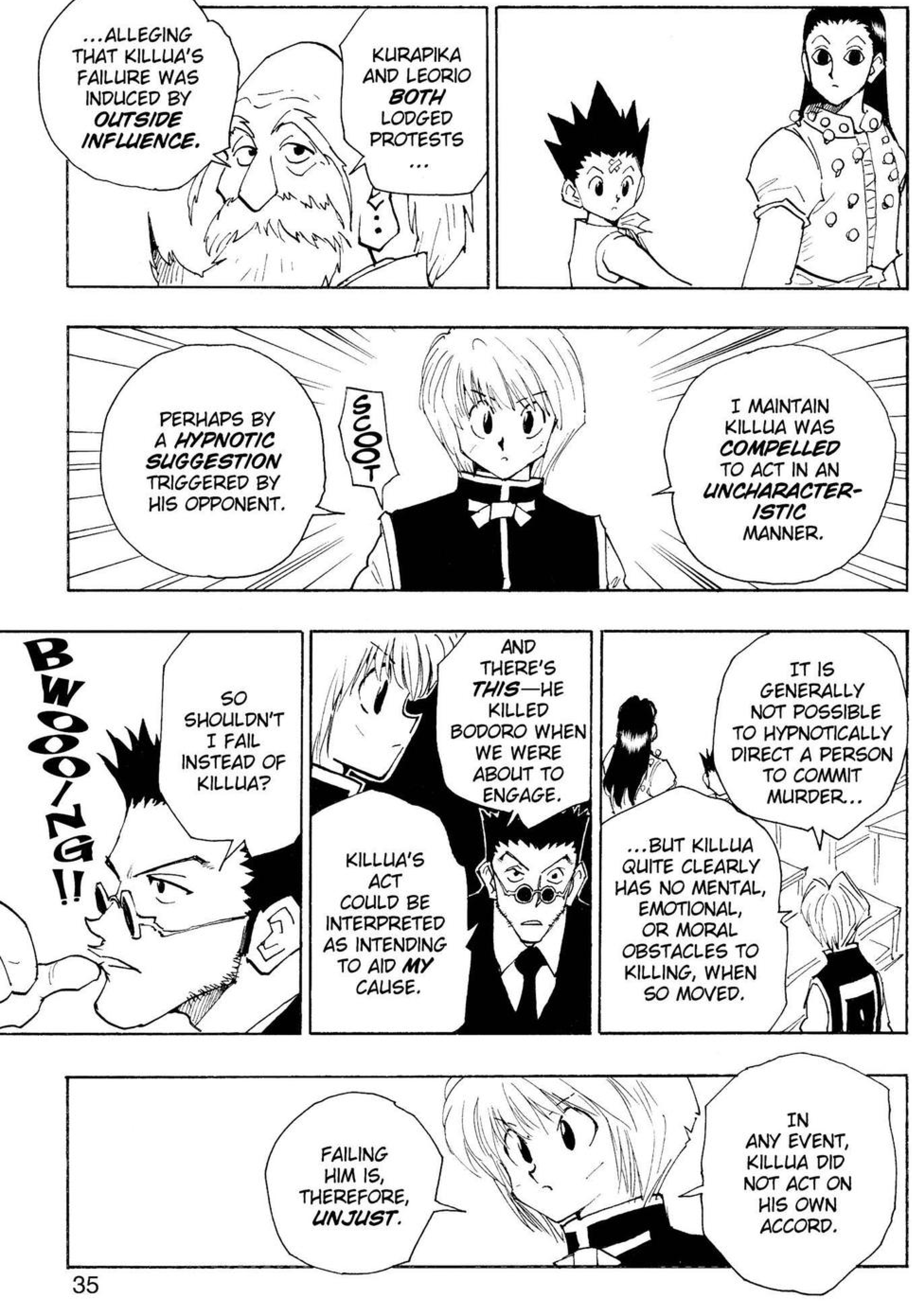

Yank!!

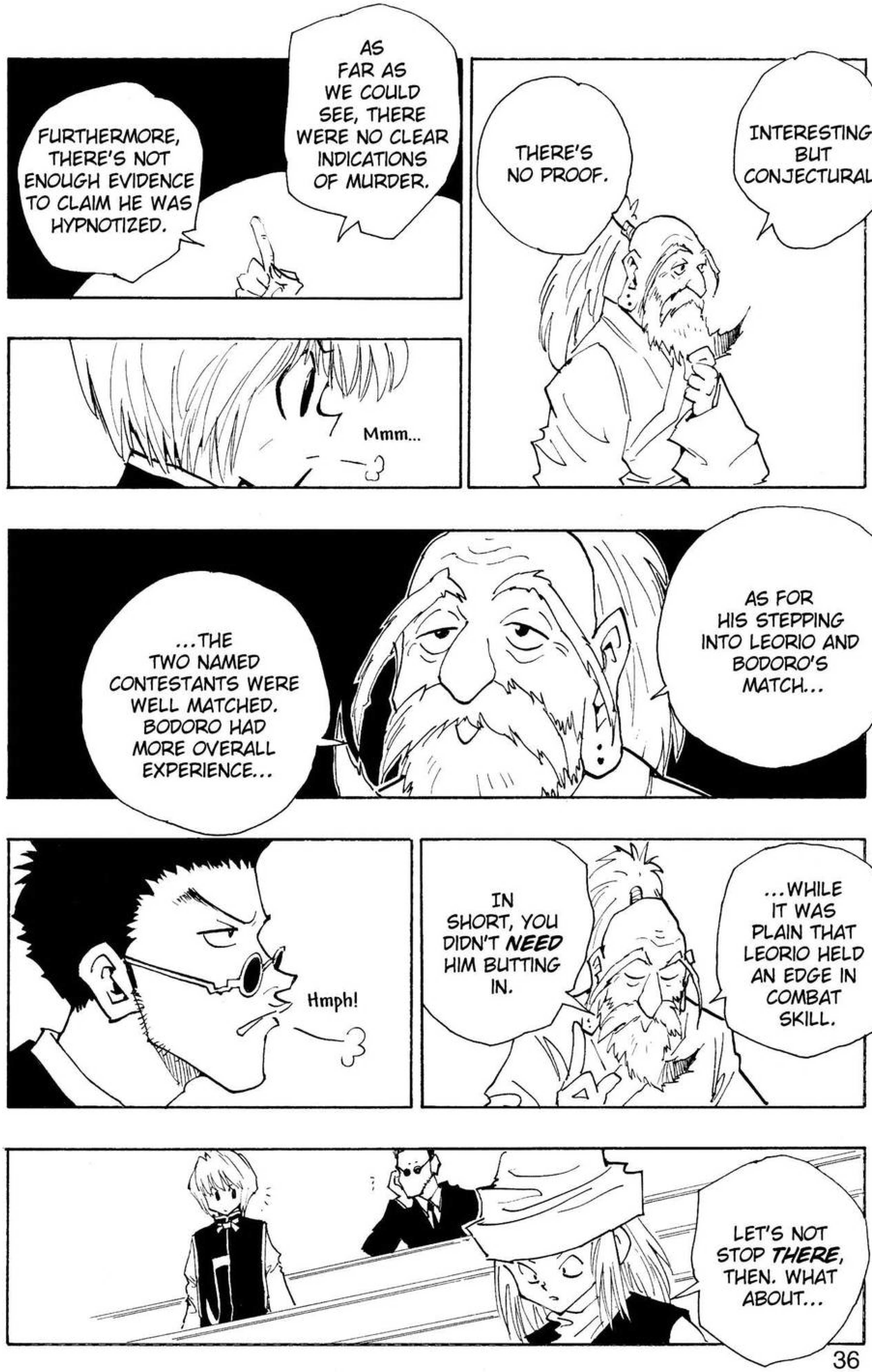

TUMP
FRIENDS DON'T NEED TO QUALIFY, EITHER!
CRACK
RRRG
CRUCKLE

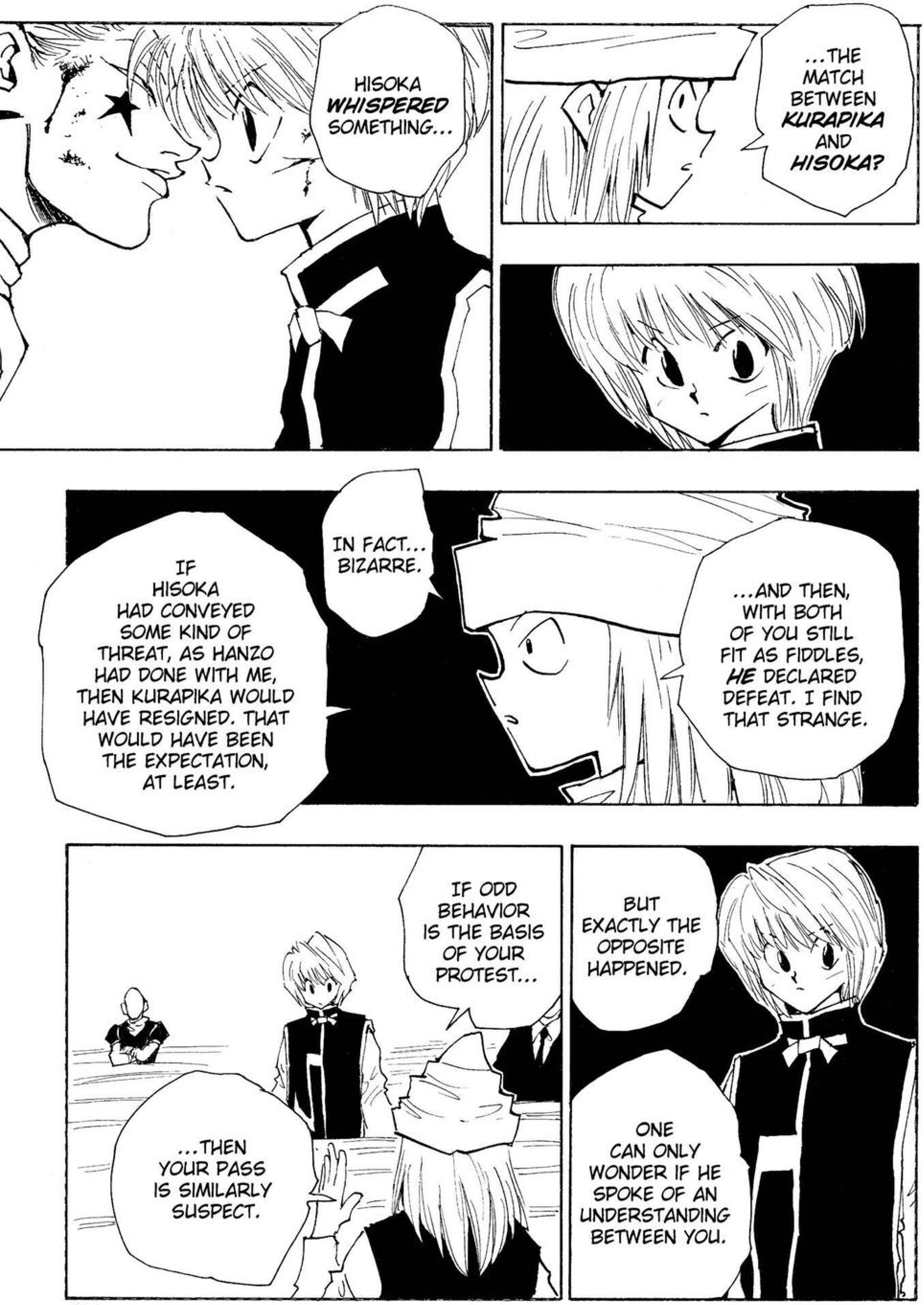
READ THIS WAY

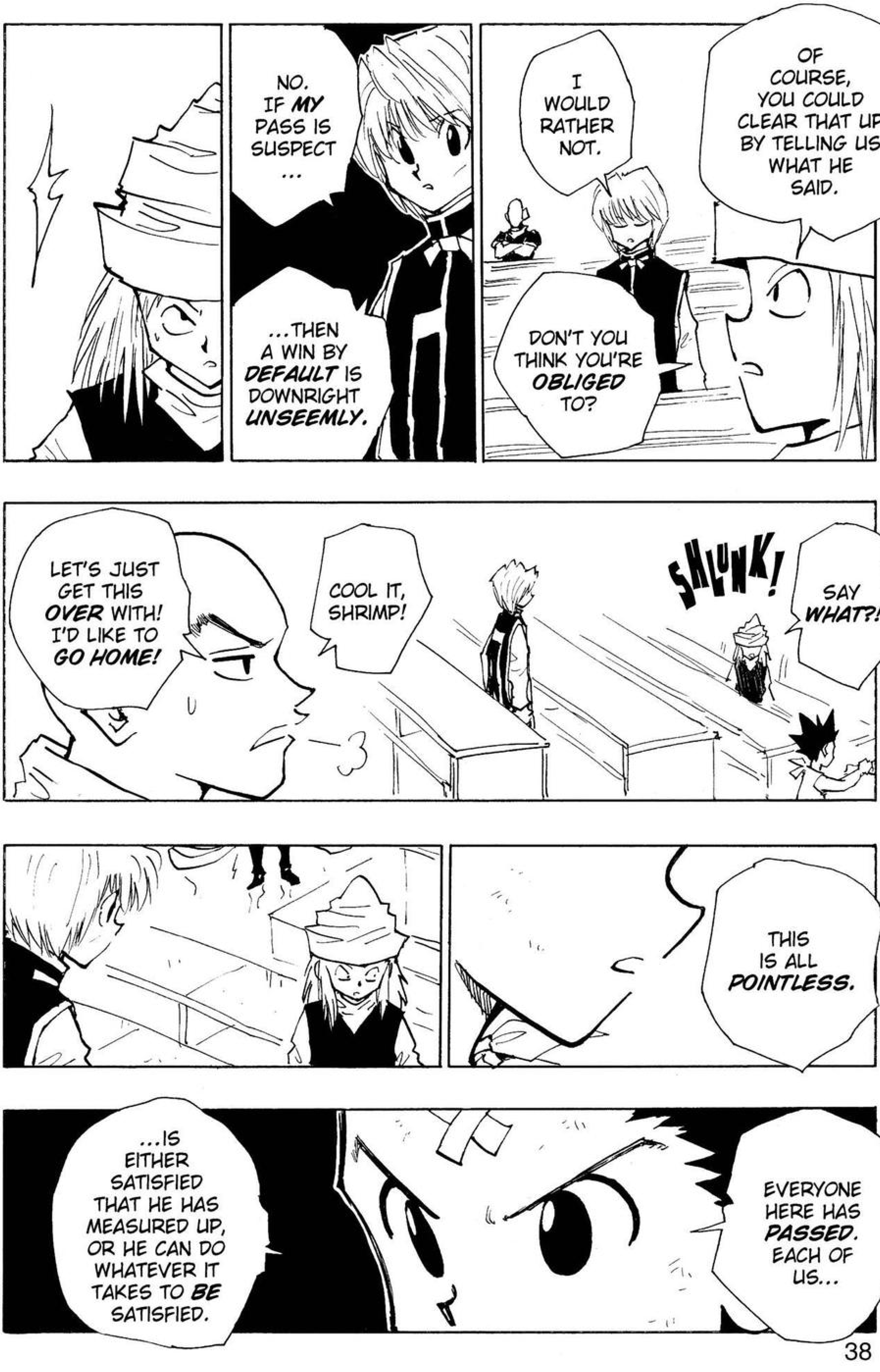

CRICK
CRICK
CRICK
WELL NOW...
THE APOLOGY DOESN'T MATTER.
JUST TAKE ME TO HIM, OKAY?
SWIP
C'MON, LET'S GO **SEE** KILLUA.
AND AFTER THAT... WHAT?
I'LL BRING HIM **BACK**, THAT'S WHAT.
What else?

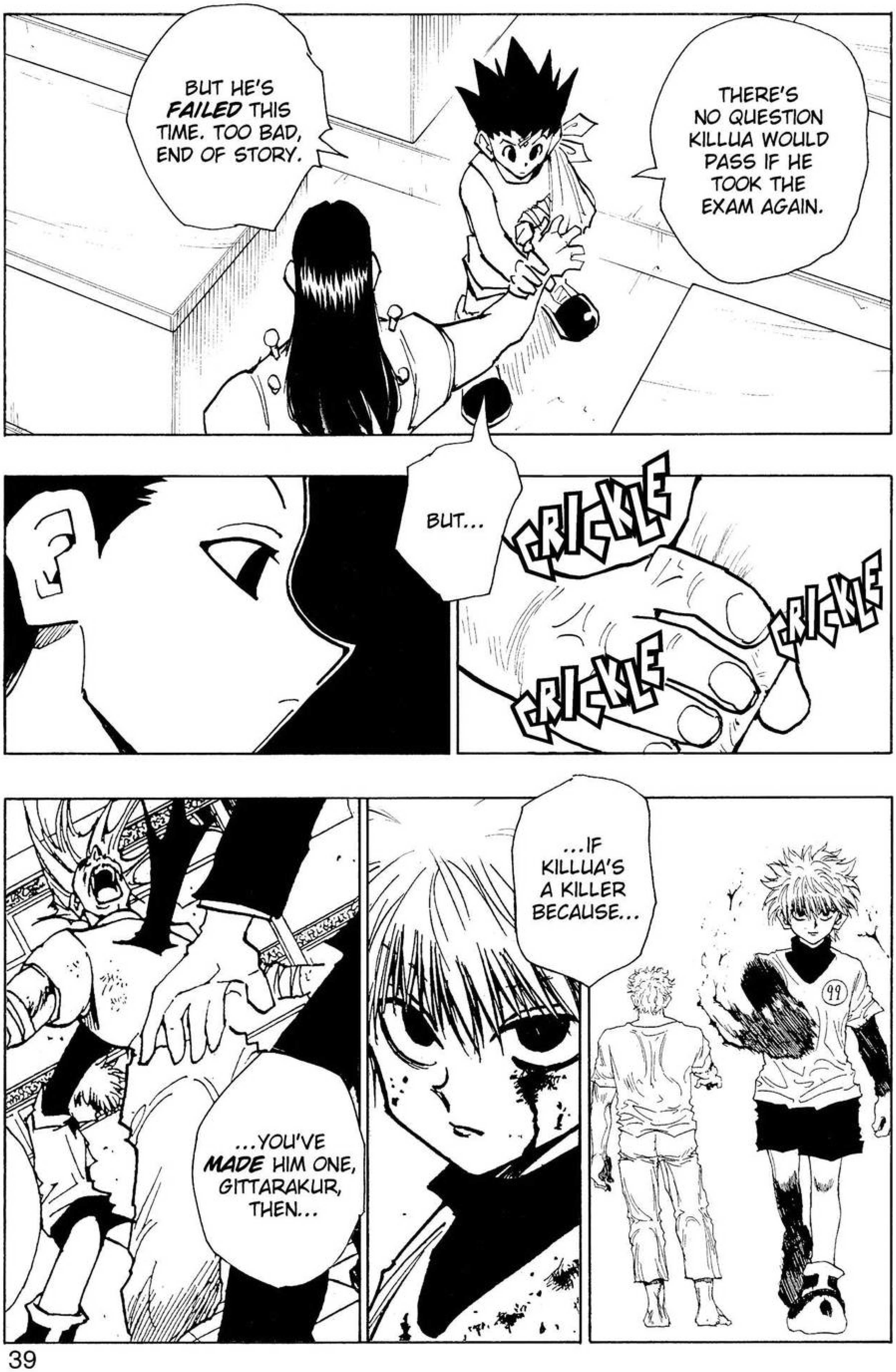

YOU MAKE IT SOUND AS IF HE WAS **KIDNAPPED**.
HE WALKED OUT BY CHOICE, ON HIS OWN.
CRUCK
SQUEEEE
YOU **KNOW** IT WASN'T HIS CHOICE.
YOU **MANIPULATED** HIM, KIDNAPPING HIS **SPIRIT!**
!
A POINT WE WERE ABOUT TO **EXAMINE**, GON.

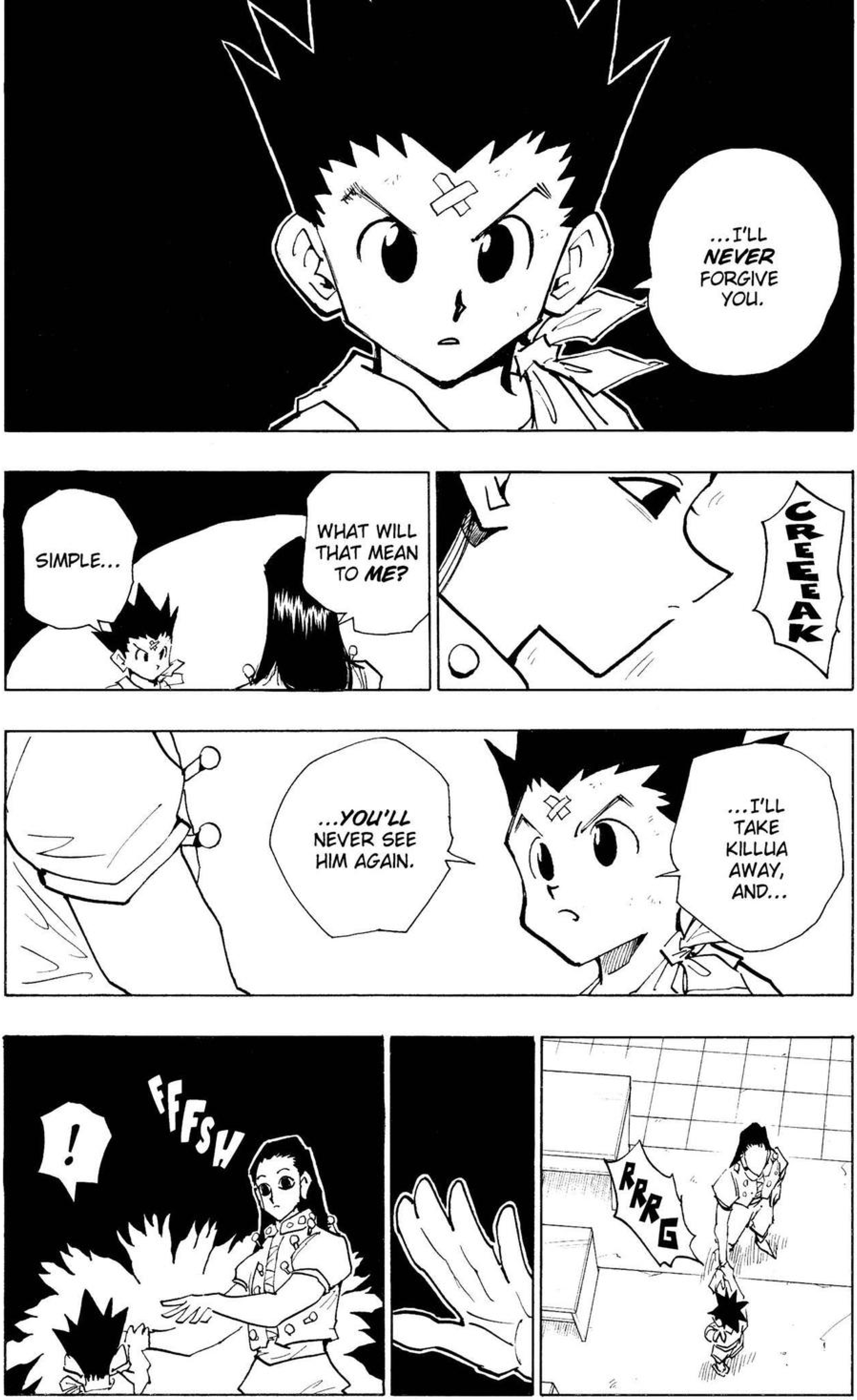

KURAPIKA AND LEORIO BOTH LODGED PROTESTS ...
...ALLEGING THAT KILLUA'S FAILURE WAS INDUCED BY OUTSIDE INFLUENCE.
I MAINTAIN KILLUA WAS COMPELLED TO ACT IN AN UNCHARACTERISTIC MANNER.
SCOOT
PERHAPS BY A HYPNOTIC SUGGESTION TRIGGERED BY HIS OPPONENT.
IT IS GENERALLY NOT POSSIBLE TO HYPNOTICALLY DIRECT A PERSON TO COMMIT MURDER...
...BUT KILLUA QUITE CLEARLY HAS NO MENTAL, EMOTIONAL, OR MORAL OBSTACLES TO KILLING, WHEN SO MOVED.
AND THERE'S THIS—HE KILLED BODORO WHEN WE WERE ABOUT TO ENGAGE.
KILLUA'S ACT COULD BE INTERPRETED AS INTENDING TO AID MY CAUSE.
SO SHOULDN'T I FAIL INSTEAD OF KILLUA?
BWOOOOING!!
IN ANY EVENT, KILLUA DID NOT ACT ON HIS OWN ACCORD.
FAILING HIM IS, THEREFORE, UNJUST.


INTERESTING, BUT CONJECTURAL.
THERE'S NO PROOF.
AS FAR AS WE COULD SEE, THERE WERE NO CLEAR INDICATIONS OF MURDER.
FURTHERMORE, THERE'S NOT ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO CLAIM HE WAS HYPNOTIZED.
Mmm...
AS FOR HIS STEPPING INTO LEORIO AND BODORO'S MATCH...
...THE TWO NAMED CONTESTANTS WERE WELL MATCHED. BODORO HAD MORE OVERALL EXPERIENCE...
...WHILE IT WAS PLAIN THAT LEORIO HELD AN EDGE IN COMBAT SKILL.
IN SHORT, YOU DIDN'T ***NEED*** HIM BUTTING IN.
Hmph!
LET'S NOT STOP ***THERE***, THEN. WHAT ABOUT...

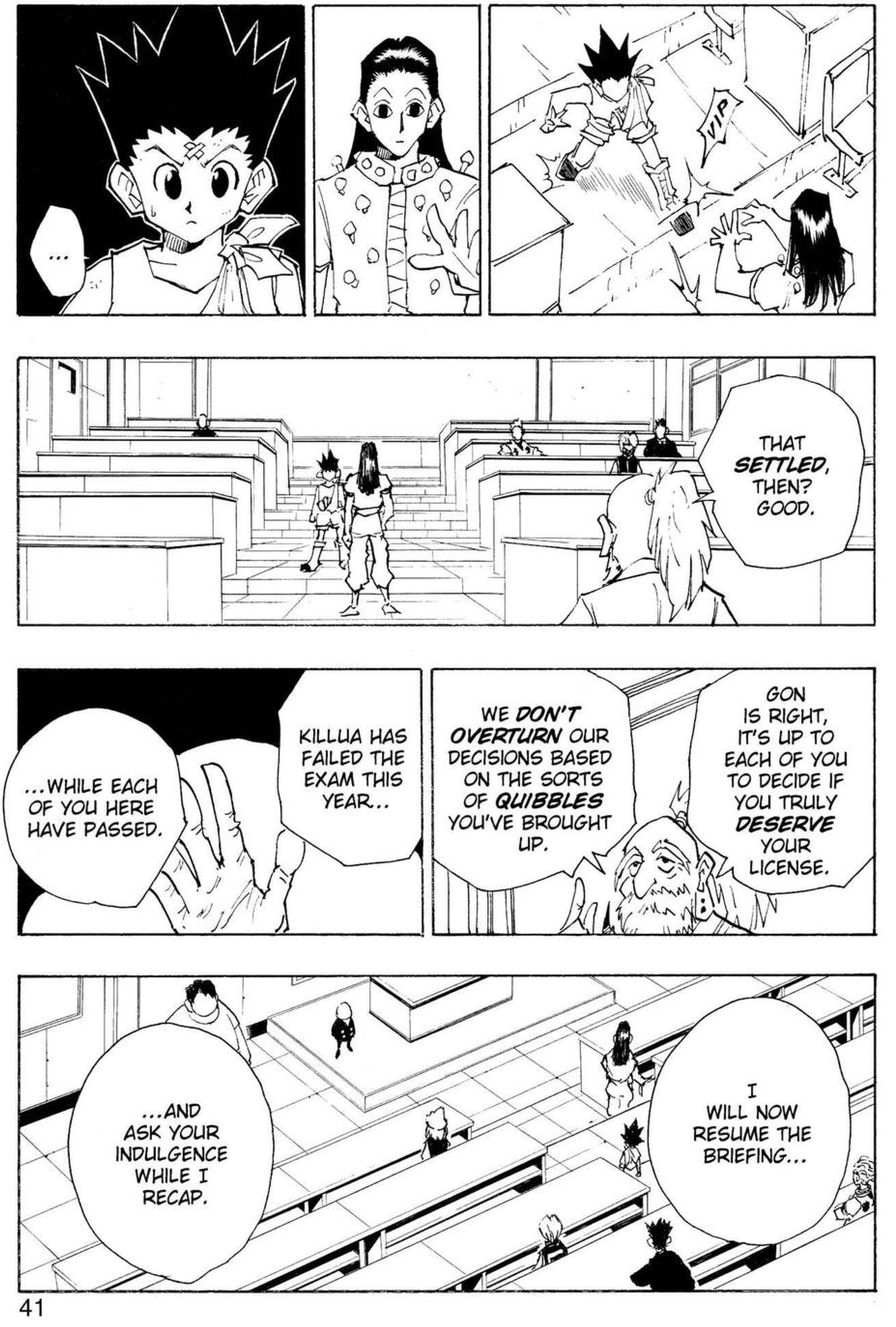

...THE MATCH BETWEEN **KURAPIKA** AND **HISOKA?**
HISOKA **WHISPERED** SOMETHING...
...AND THEN, WITH BOTH OF YOU STILL FIT AS FIDDLES, **HE** DECLARED DEFEAT. I FIND THAT STRANGE.
IN FACT... BIZARRE.
IF HISOKA HAD CONVEYED SOME KIND OF THREAT, AS HANZO HAD DONE WITH ME, THEN KURAPIKA WOULD HAVE RESIGNED. THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE EXPECTATION, AT LEAST.
BUT EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE HAPPENED.
ONE CAN ONLY WONDER IF HE SPOKE OF AN UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN YOU.
IF ODD BEHAVIOR IS THE BASIS OF YOUR PROTEST...
...THEN YOUR PASS IS SIMILARLY SUSPECT.

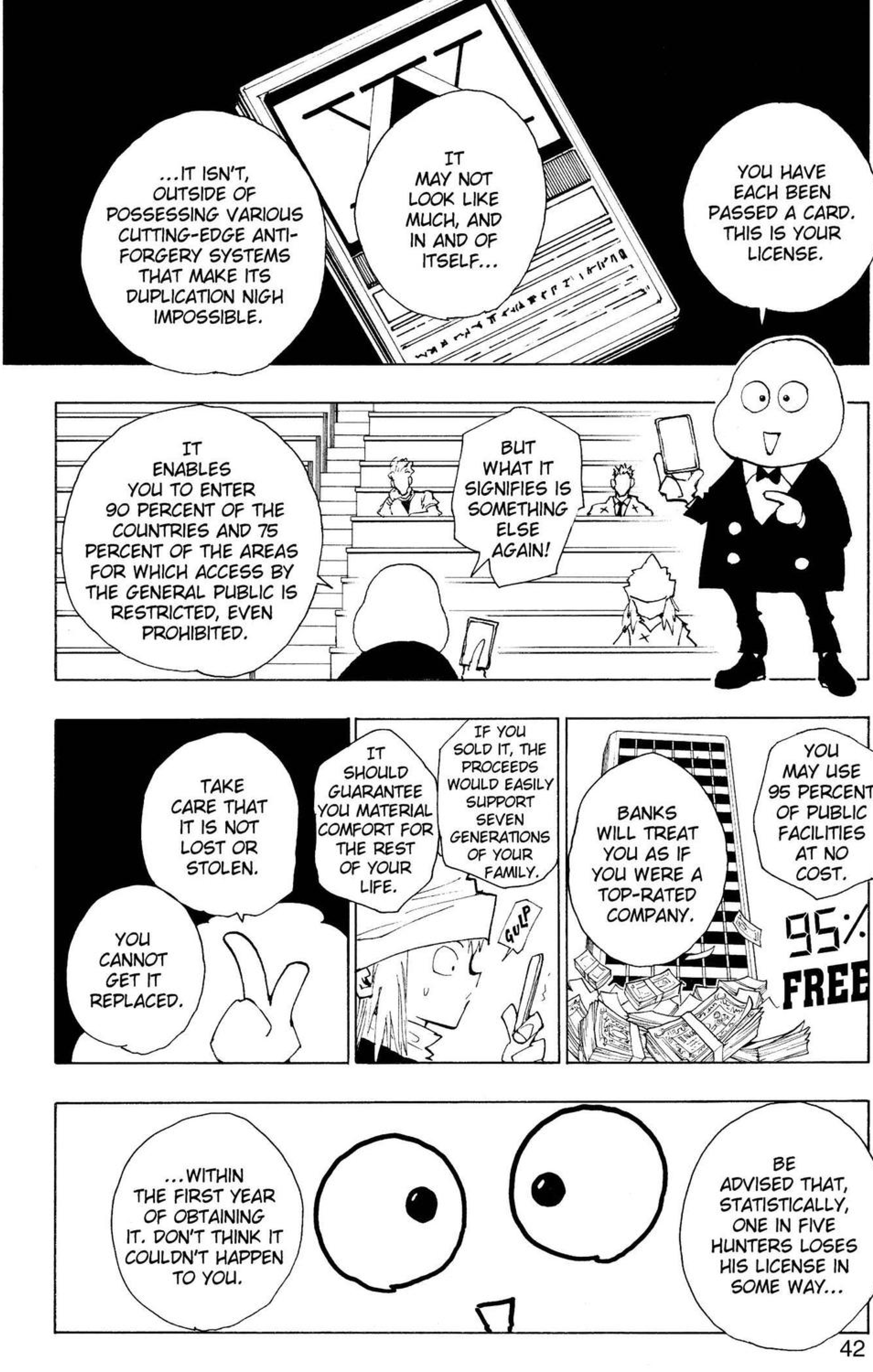

OF COURSE, YOU COULD CLEAR THAT UP BY TELLING US WHAT HE SAID.
I WOULD RATHER NOT.
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE *OBLIGED* TO?
NO. IF *MY* PASS IS SUSPECT ...
...THEN A WIN BY *DEFAULT* IS DOWNRIGHT *UNSEEMLY.*
SAY *WHAT?!*
SHLUNK!
COOL IT, SHRIMP!
LET'S JUST GET THIS *OVER* WITH! I'D LIKE TO *GO HOME!*
THIS IS ALL *POINTLESS.*
EVERYONE HERE HAS *PASSED.* EACH OF US...
...IS EITHER SATISFIED THAT HE HAS MEASURED UP, OR HE CAN DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO *BE* SATISFIED.

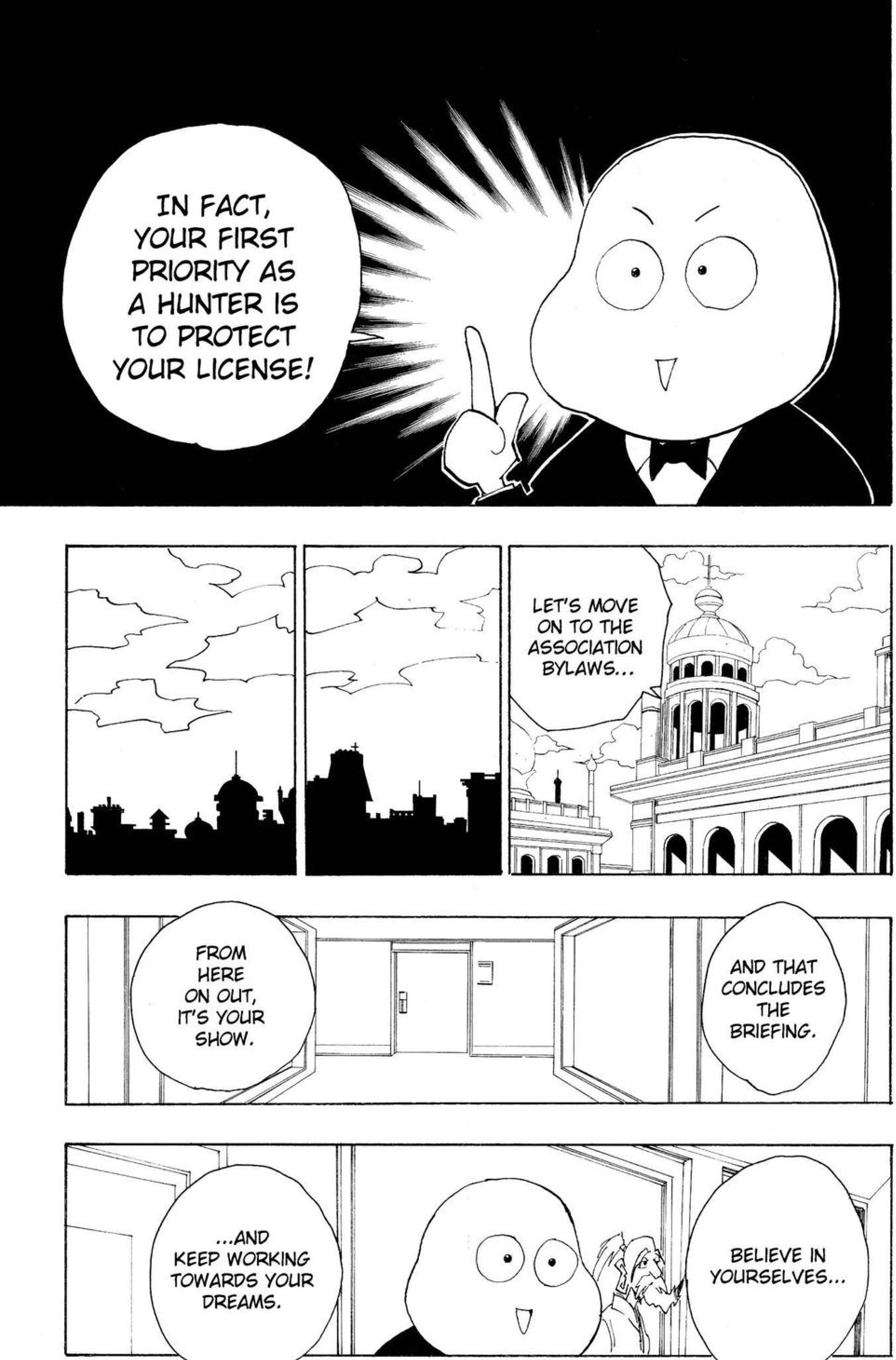

THERE'S NO QUESTION KILLUA WOULD PASS IF HE TOOK THE EXAM AGAIN.
BUT HE'S **FAILED** THIS TIME. TOO BAD, END OF STORY.
BUT...
CRICKLE
CRICKLE
CRICKLE
...IF KILLUA'S A KILLER BECAUSE...
99
...YOU'VE **MADE** HIM ONE, GITTARAKUR, THEN...

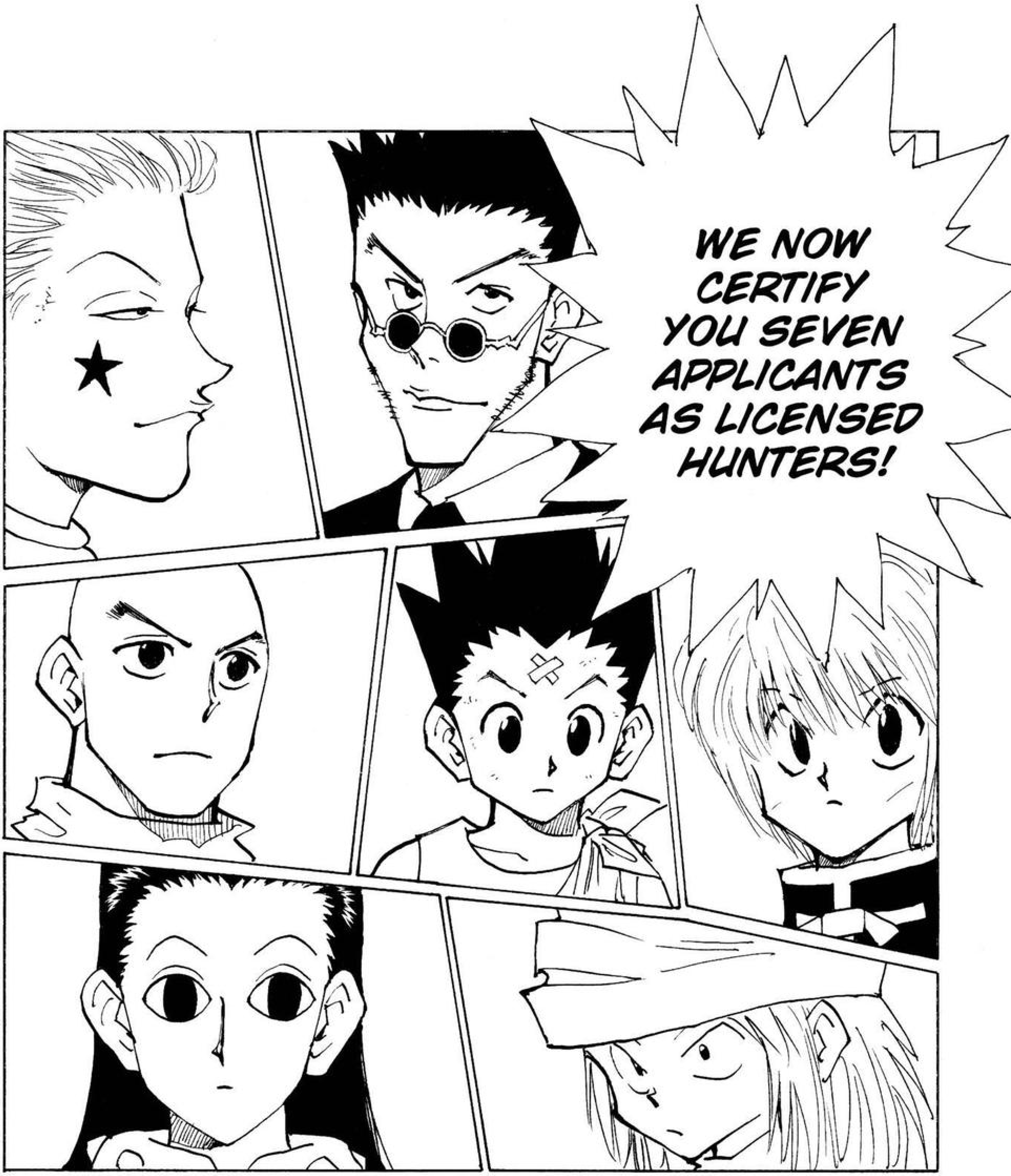

...I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU.
CREEEAK
WHAT WILL THAT MEAN TO ME?
SIMPLE...
...I'LL TAKE KILLUA AWAY, AND...
...YOU'LL NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN.
RRRG
FFFSH
!

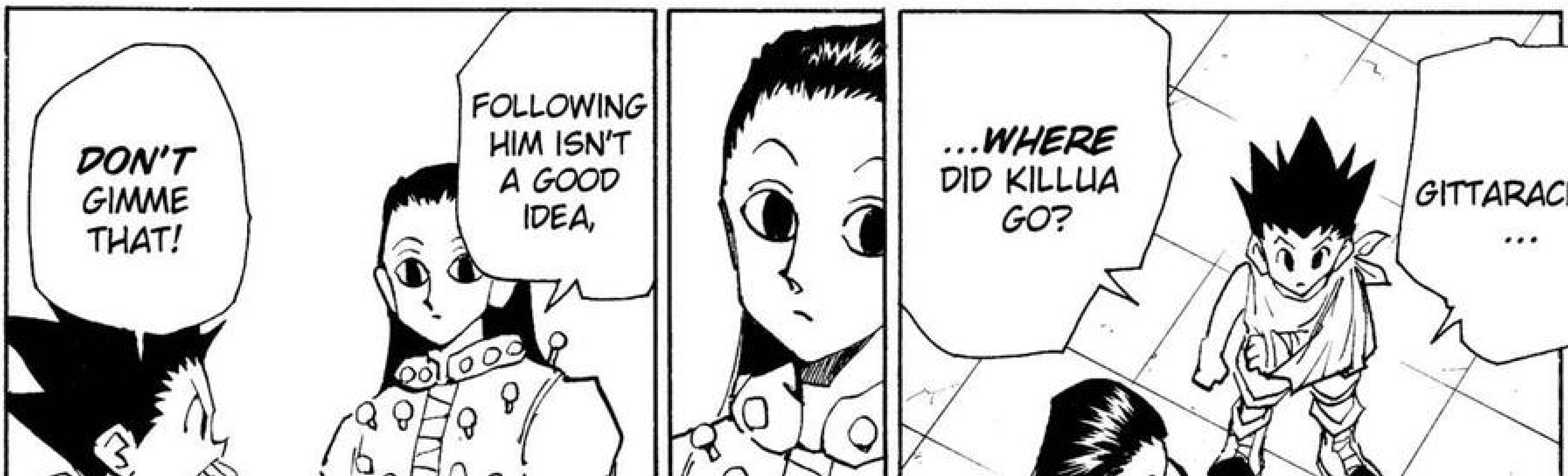
READ THIS WAY

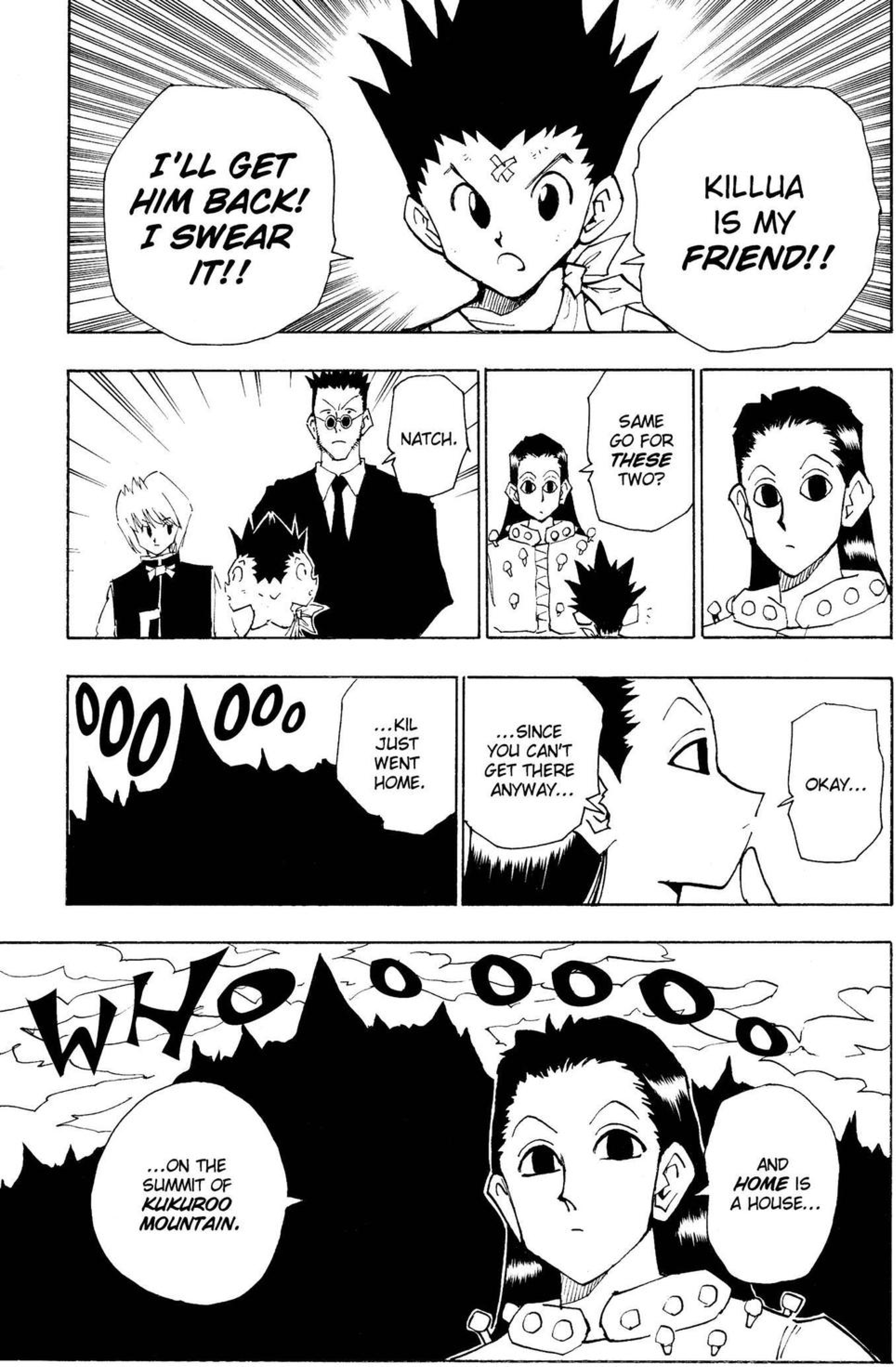

VIP
…
THAT *SETTLED*, THEN? GOOD.
GON IS RIGHT, IT'S UP TO EACH OF YOU TO DECIDE IF YOU TRULY *DESERVE* YOUR LICENSE.
WE *DON'T OVERTURN* OUR DECISIONS BASED ON THE SORTS OF *QUIBBLES* YOU'VE BROUGHT UP.
KILLUA HAS FAILED THE EXAM THIS YEAR..
...WHILE EACH OF YOU HERE HAVE PASSED.
I WILL NOW RESUME THE BRIEFING...
...AND ASK YOUR INDULGENCE WHILE I RECAP.

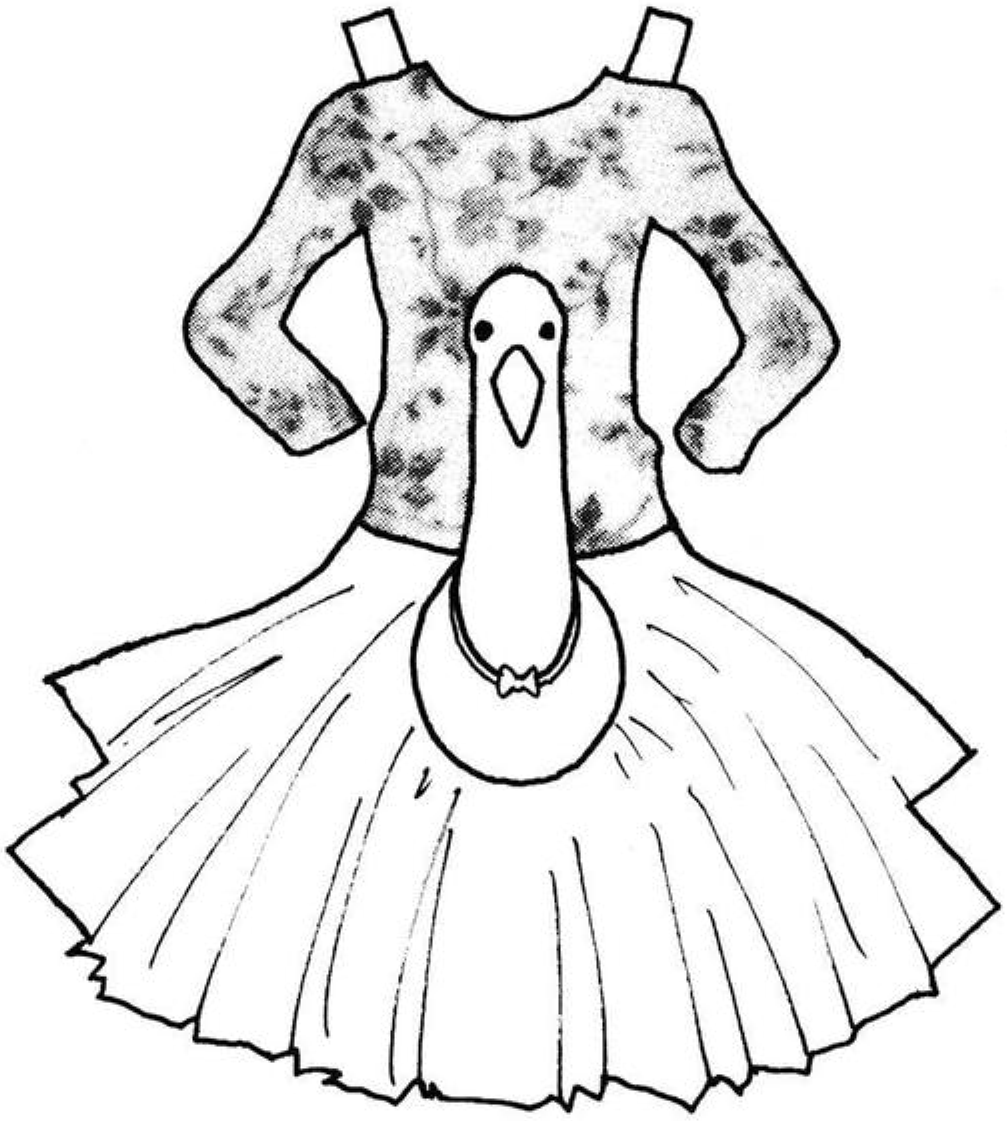

YOU HAVE EACH BEEN PASSED A CARD. THIS IS YOUR LICENSE.
IT MAY NOT LOOK LIKE MUCH, AND IN AND OF ITSELF...
...IT ISN'T, OUTSIDE OF POSSESSING VARIOUS CUTTING-EDGE ANTI-FORGERY SYSTEMS THAT MAKE ITS DUPLICATION NIGH IMPOSSIBLE.
BUT WHAT IT SIGNIFIES IS SOMETHING ELSE AGAIN!
IT ENABLES YOU TO ENTER 90 PERCENT OF THE COUNTRIES AND 75 PERCENT OF THE AREAS FOR WHICH ACCESS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS RESTRICTED, EVEN PROHIBITED.
YOU MAY USE 95 PERCENT OF PUBLIC FACILITIES AT NO COST.
95%
FREE
BANKS WILL TREAT YOU AS IF YOU WERE A TOP-RATED COMPANY.
IF YOU SOLD IT, THE PROCEEDS WOULD EASILY SUPPORT SEVEN GENERATIONS OF YOUR FAMILY.
IT SHOULD GUARANTEE YOU MATERIAL COMFORT FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.
GULP
TAKE CARE THAT IT IS NOT LOST OR STOLEN.
YOU CANNOT GET IT REPLACED.
BE ADVISED THAT, STATISTICALLY, ONE IN FIVE HUNTERS LOSES HIS LICENSE IN SOME WAY...
...WITHIN THE FIRST YEAR OF OBTAINING IT. DON'T THINK IT COULDN'T HAPPEN TO YOU.

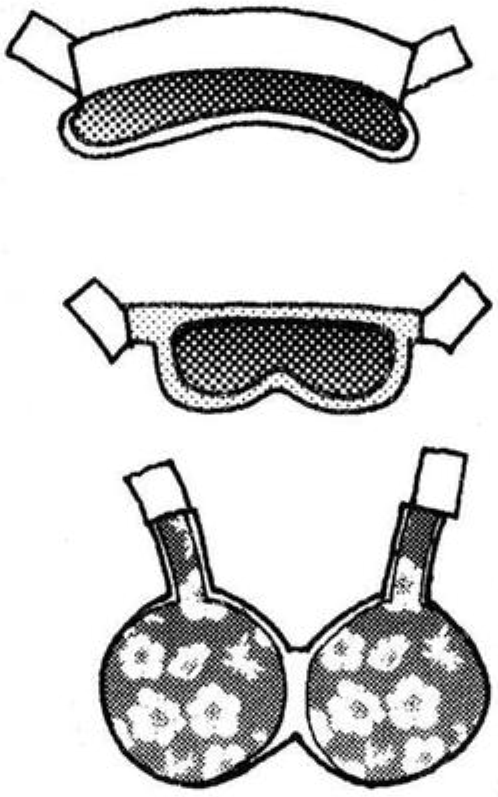

IN FACT, YOUR FIRST PRIORITY AS A HUNTER IS TO PROTECT YOUR LICENSE!
LET'S MOVE ON TO THE ASSOCIATION BYLAWS...
AND THAT CONCLUDES THE BRIEFING.
FROM HERE ON OUT, IT'S YOUR SHOW.
BELIEVE IN YOURSELVES...
...AND KEEP WORKING TOWARDS YOUR DREAMS.

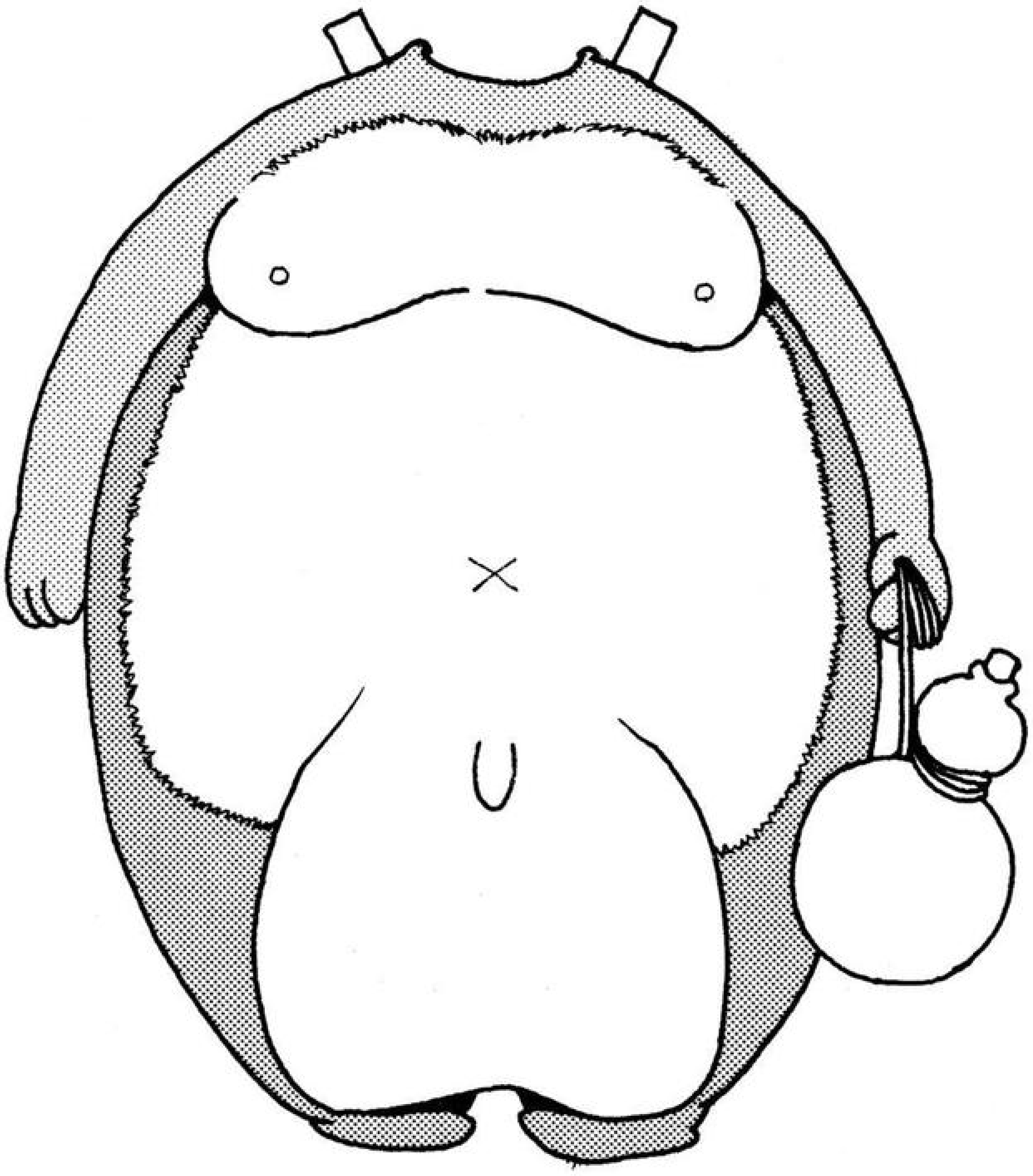

WE NOW CERTIFY YOU SEVEN APPLICANTS AS LICENSED HUNTERS!


GITTARACKUR …
…WHERE DID KILLUA GO?
FOLLOWING HIM ISN'T A GOOD IDEA,
DON'T GIMME THAT!


KILLUA IS MY *FRIEND!!*
I'LL GET HIM BACK! I SWEAR IT!!
SAME GO FOR ***THESE*** TWO?
NATCH.
OKAY...
...SINCE YOU CAN'T GET THERE ANYWAY...
OOO OOO
...KIL JUST WENT HOME.
WHOOOOOO
AND ***HOME*** IS A HOUSE...
...ON THE SUMMIT OF ***KUKUROO MOUNTAIN.***

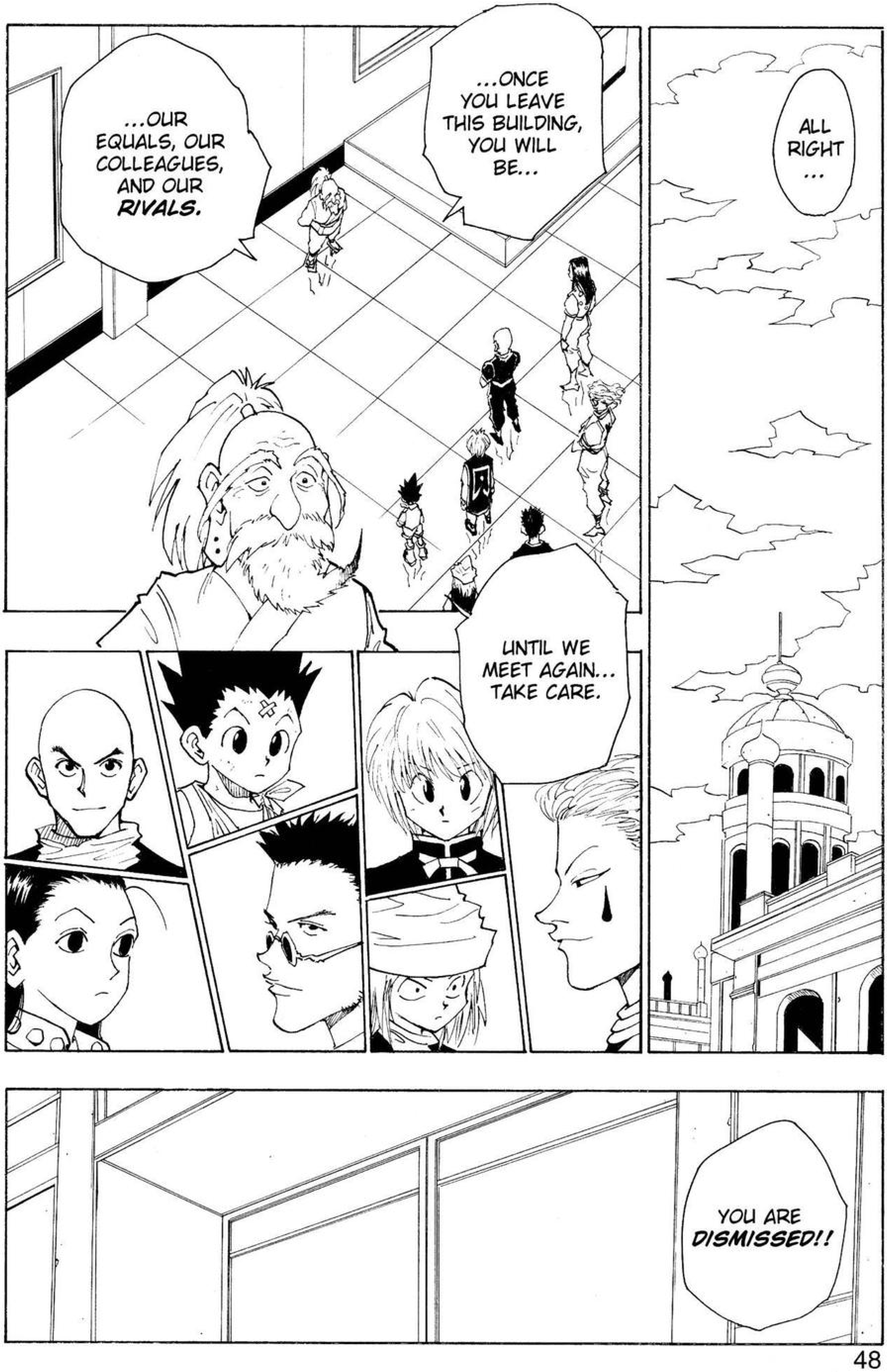




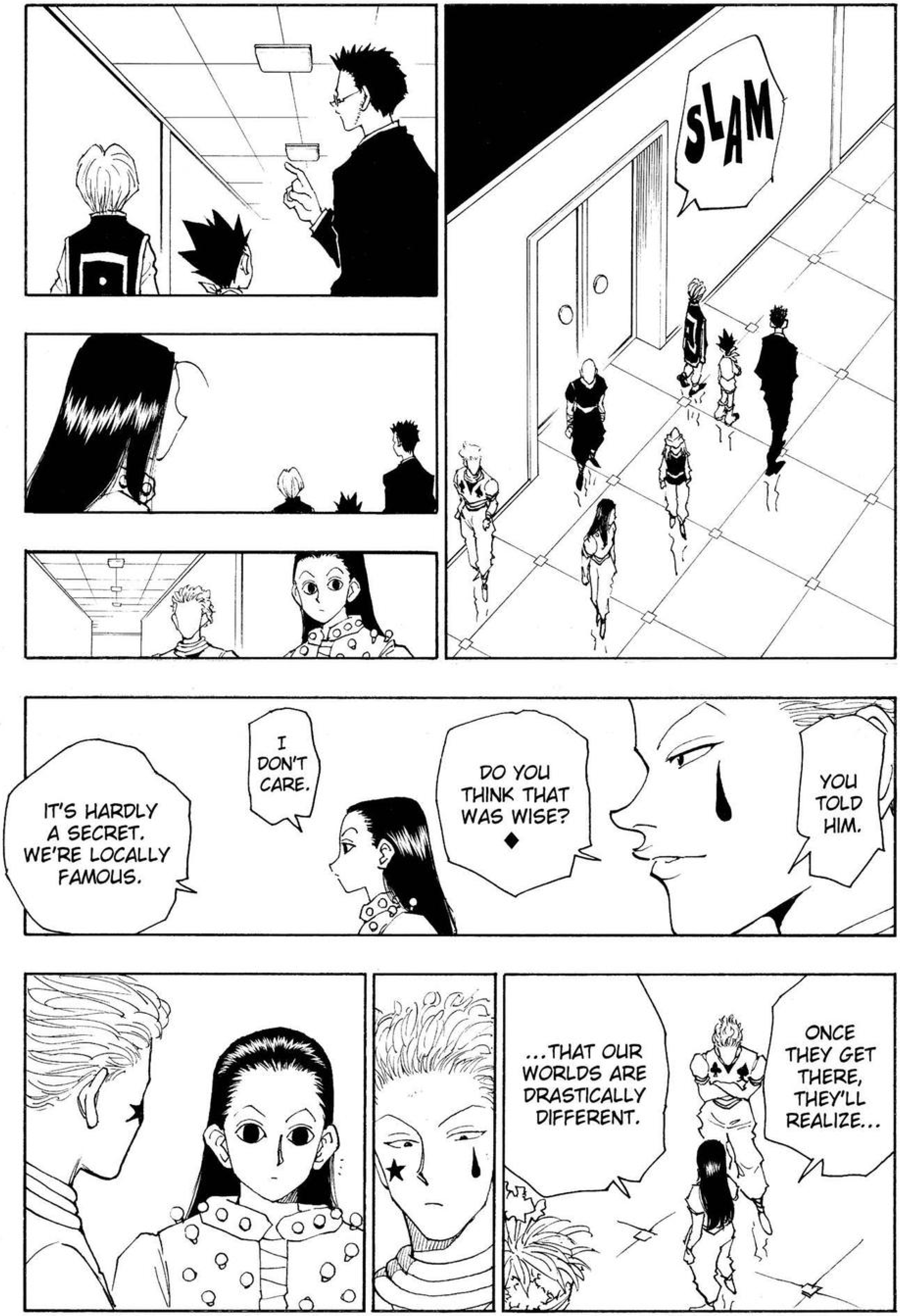


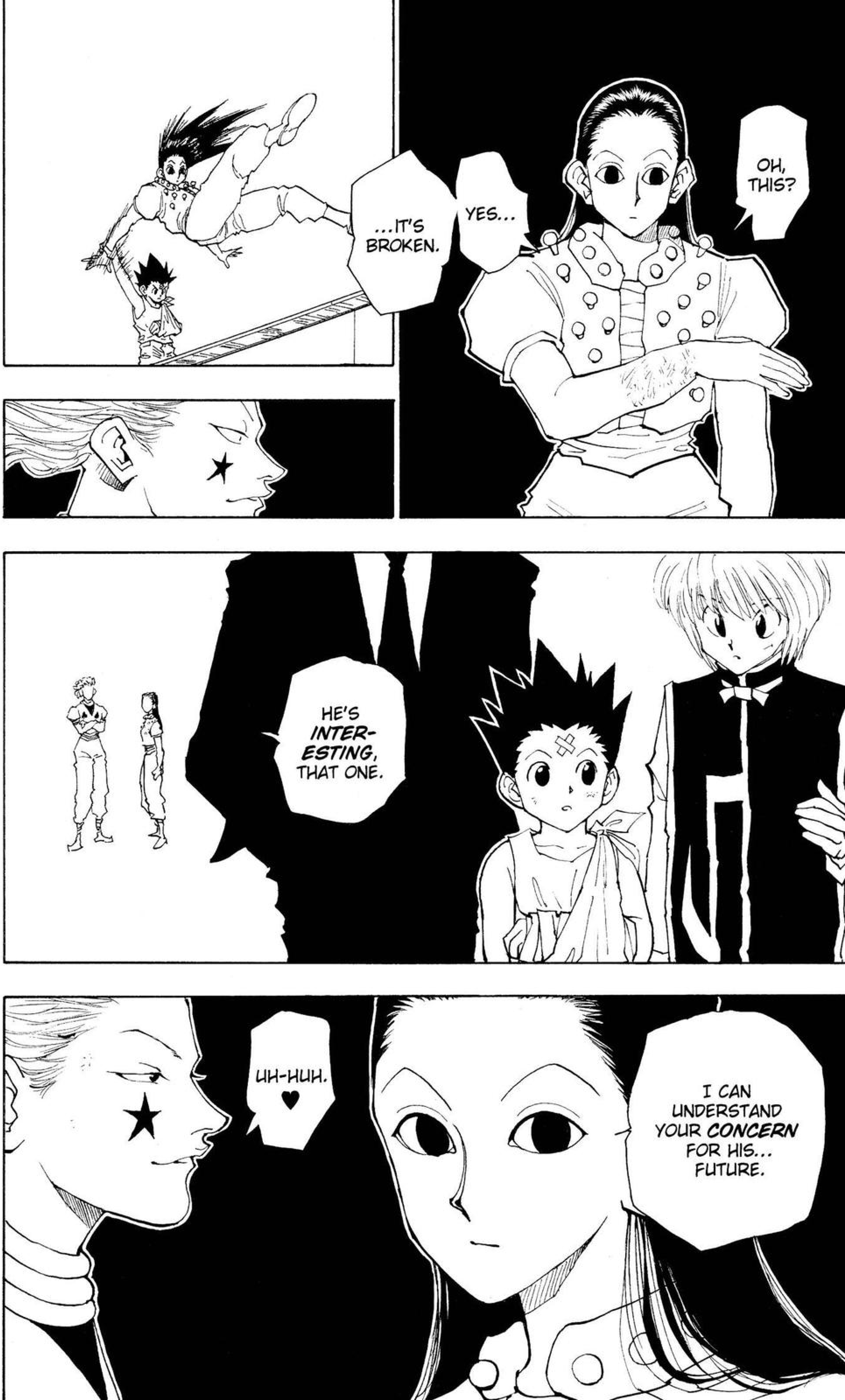
Chapter 38

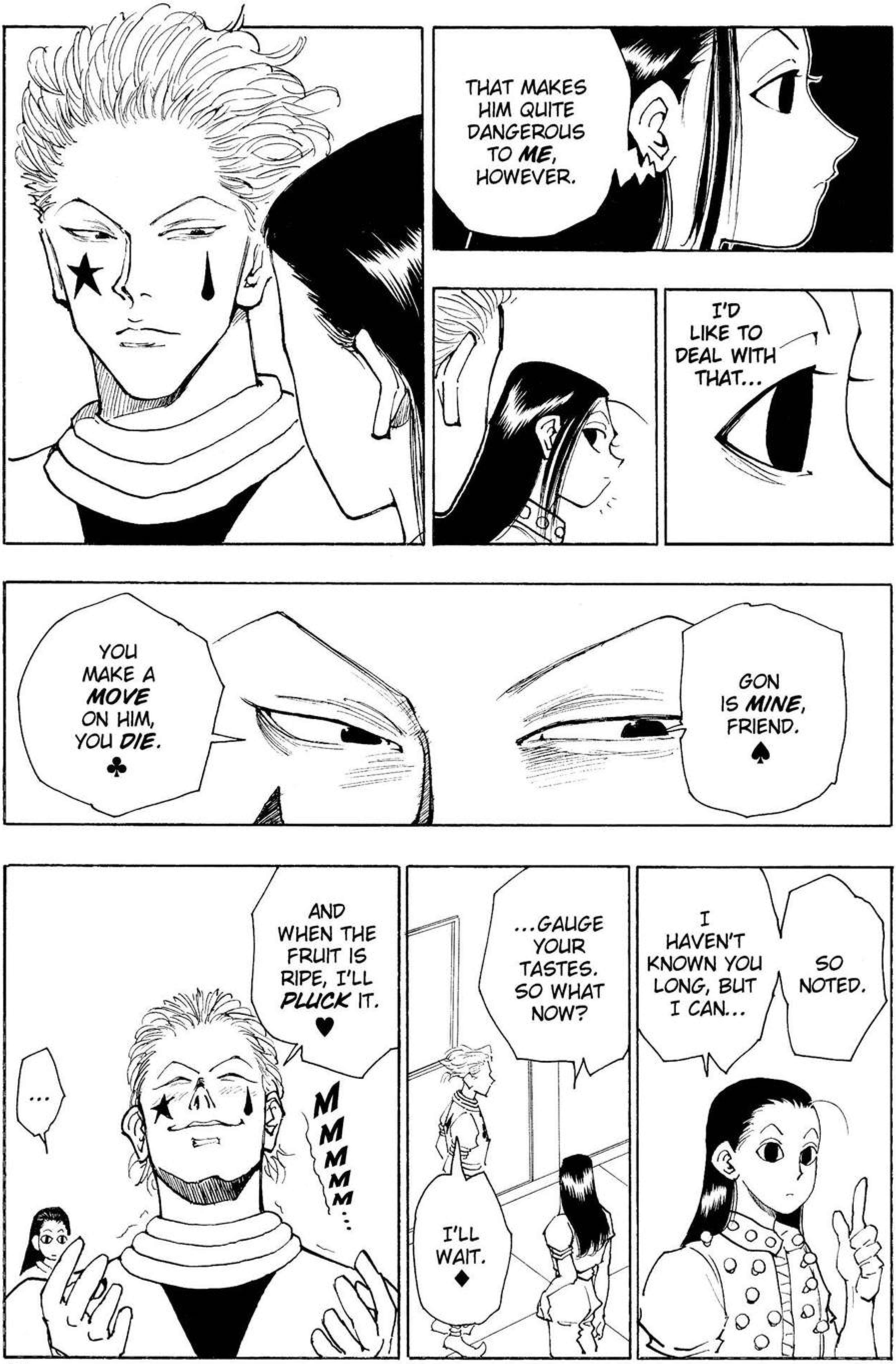
Ging Freecss

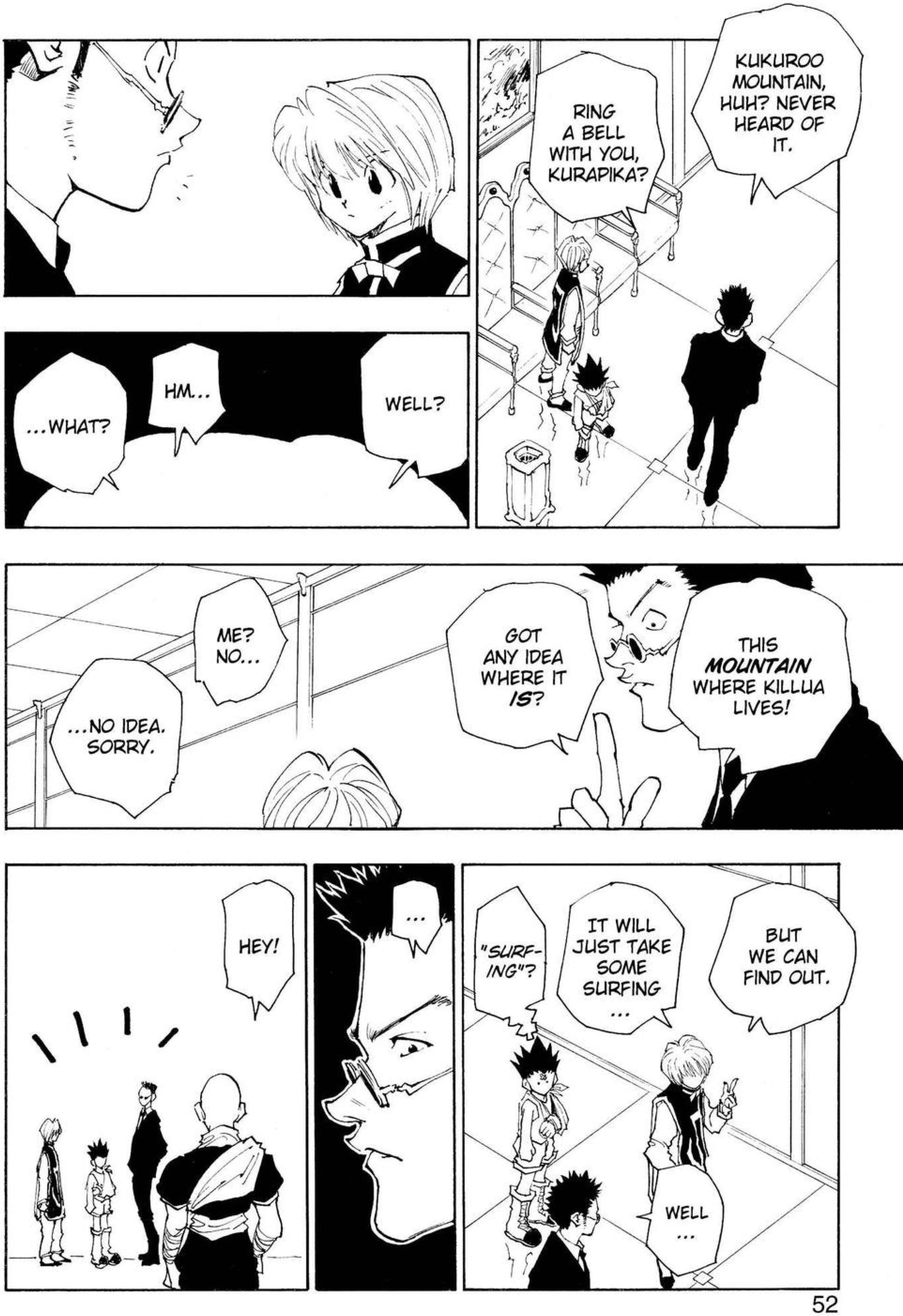

ALL RIGHT ...
...ONCE YOU LEAVE THIS BUILDING, YOU WILL BE...
...OUR EQUALS, OUR COLLEAGUES, AND OUR ***RIVALS.***
UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN... TAKE CARE.
YOU ARE ***DISMISSED!!***

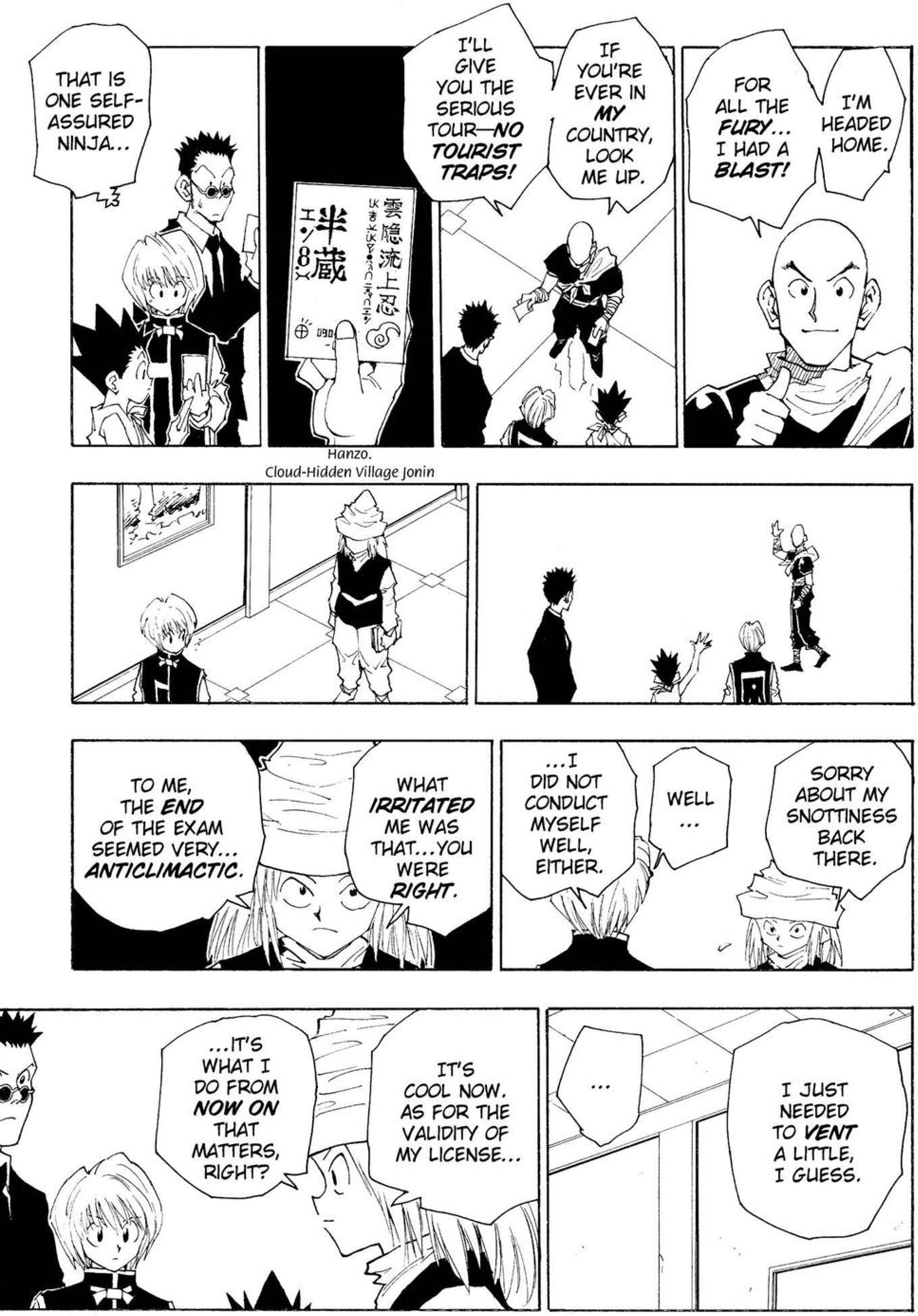
READ THIS WAY


SLAM
YOU TOLD HIM.
DO YOU THINK THAT WAS WISE? ◆
I DON'T CARE.
IT'S HARDLY A SECRET. WE'RE LOCALLY FAMOUS.
ONCE THEY GET THERE, THEY'LL REALIZE…
…THAT OUR WORLDS ARE DRASTICALLY DIFFERENT.

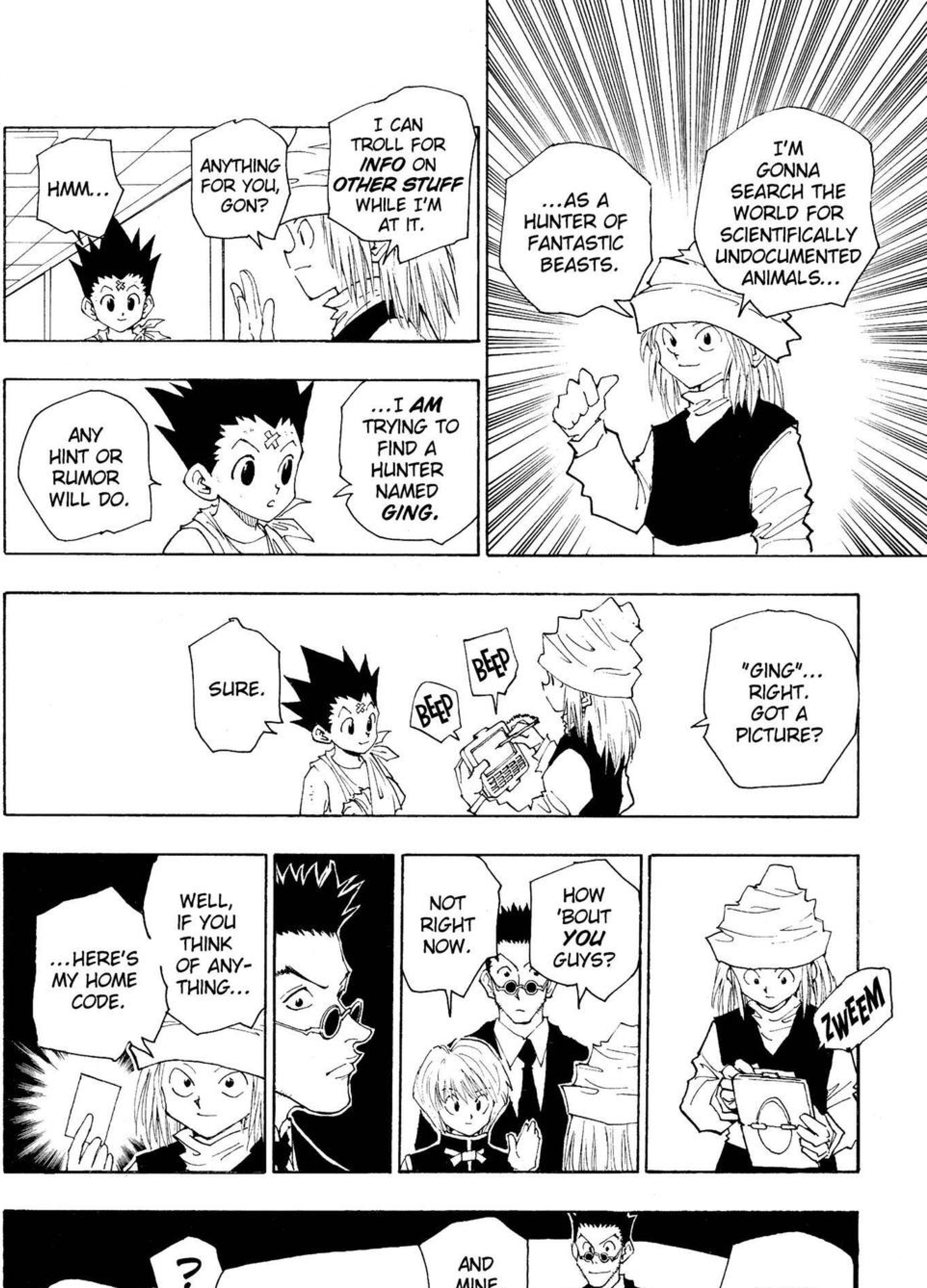

OH, THIS?
YES...
...IT'S BROKEN.
HE'S *INTERESTING*, THAT ONE.
I CAN UNDERSTAND YOUR **CONCERN** FOR HIS... FUTURE.
UH-HUH. ♥

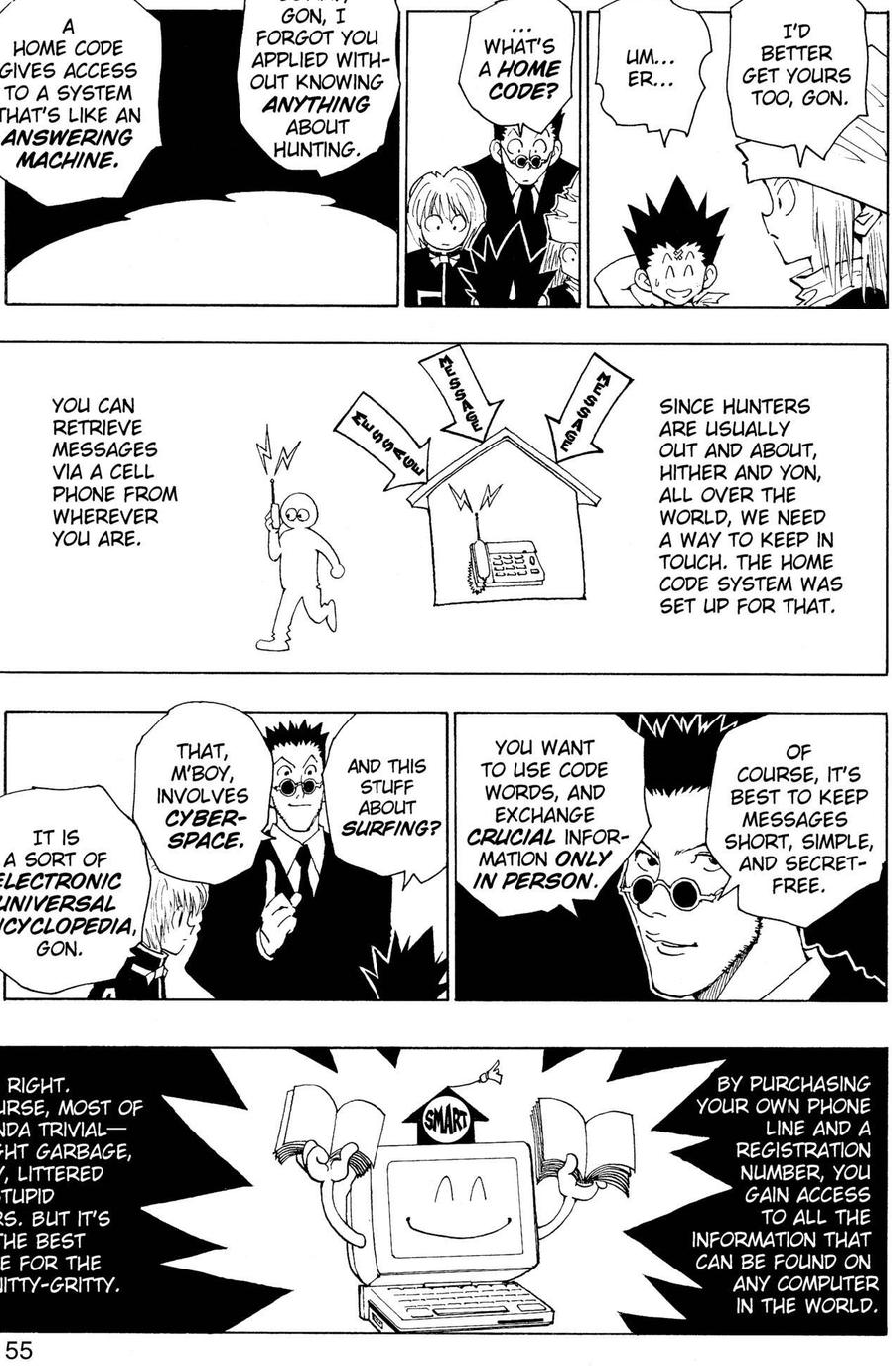

THAT MAKES HIM QUITE DANGEROUS TO *ME*, HOWEVER.
I'D LIKE TO DEAL WITH THAT...
GON IS *MINE*, FRIEND. ♠
YOU MAKE A *MOVE* ON HIM, YOU *DIE*. ♣
SO NOTED.
I HAVEN'T KNOWN YOU LONG, BUT I CAN...
...GAUGE YOUR TASTES. SO WHAT NOW?
I'LL WAIT. ♦
AND WHEN THE FRUIT IS RIPE, I'LL *PLUCK* IT. ♥
MMMMM...
...

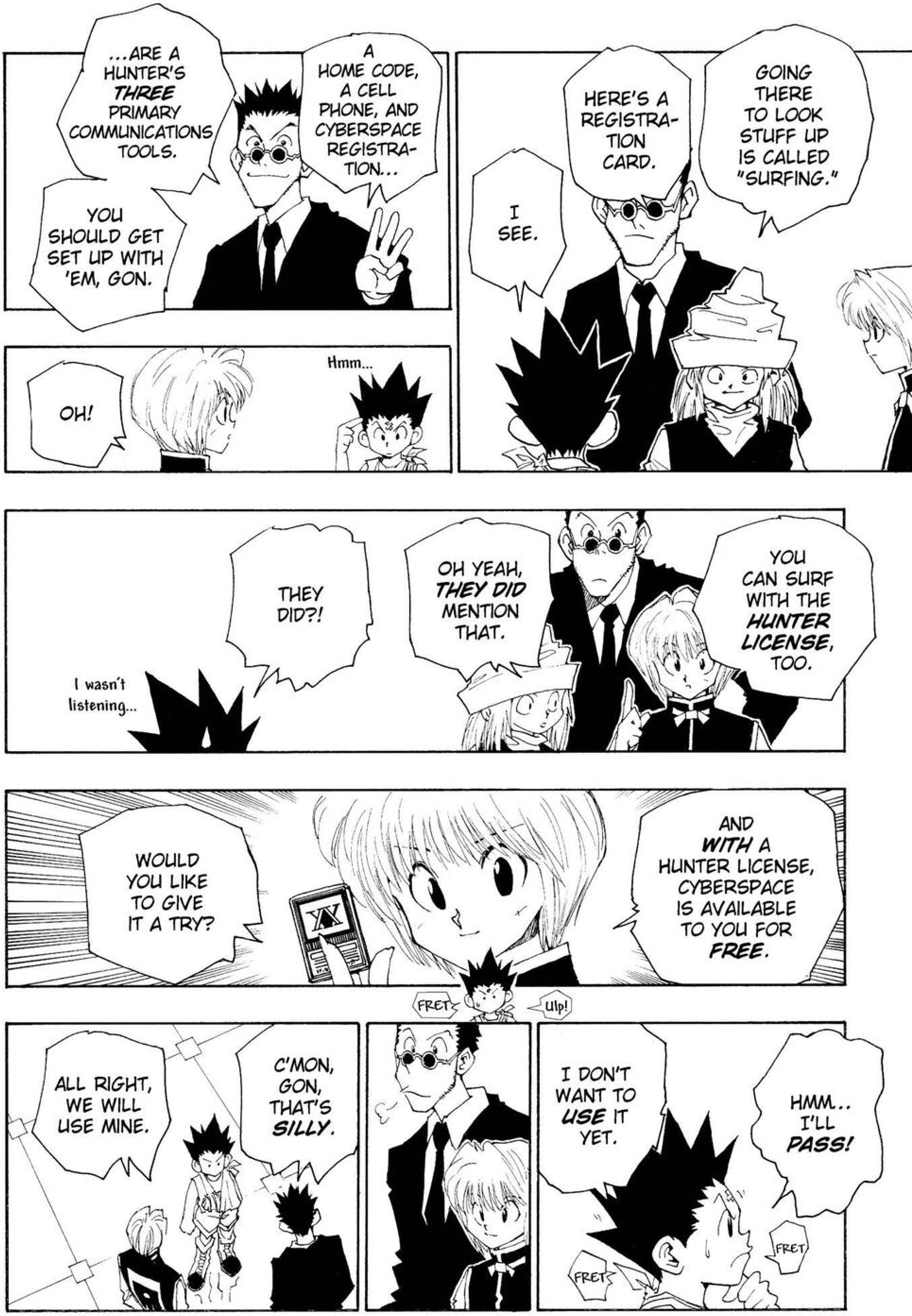

KUKUROO MOUNTAIN, HUH? NEVER HEARD OF IT.
RING A BELL WITH YOU, KURAPIKA?
WELL?
HM...
...WHAT?
THIS **MOUNTAIN** WHERE KILLUA LIVES!
GOT ANY IDEA WHERE IT *IS*?
ME? NO...
...NO IDEA. SORRY.
BUT WE CAN FIND OUT.
IT WILL JUST TAKE SOME SURFING...
"SURFING"?
WELL...
...
HEY!


I'M HEADED HOME.
FOR ALL THE FURY... I HAD A BLAST!
IF YOU'RE EVER IN MY COUNTRY, LOOK ME UP.
I'LL GIVE YOU THE SERIOUS TOUR—NO TOURIST TRAPS!
雲隠流上忍
半蔵
THAT IS ONE SELF-ASSURED NINJA...
SORRY ABOUT MY SNOTTINESS BACK THERE.
WELL...
...I DID NOT CONDUCT MYSELF WELL, EITHER.
WHAT IRRITATED ME WAS THAT...YOU WERE RIGHT.
TO ME, THE END OF THE EXAM SEEMED VERY... ANTICLIMACTIC.
I JUST NEEDED TO VENT A LITTLE, I GUESS.
...
IT'S COOL NOW. AS FOR THE VALIDITY OF MY LICENSE...
...IT'S WHAT I DO FROM NOW ON THAT MATTERS, RIGHT?

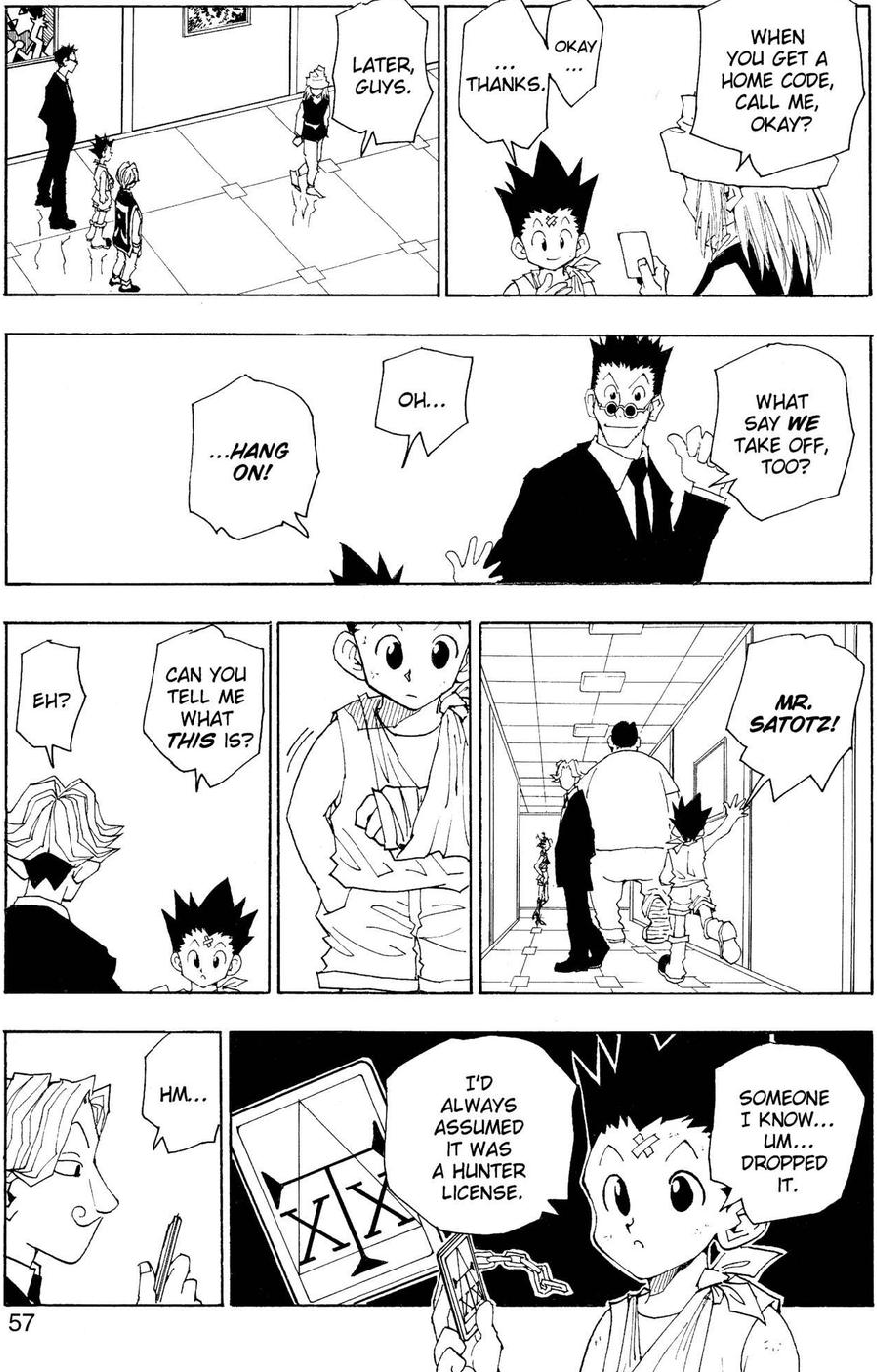
Hanzo.
Cloud-Hidden Village Jonin

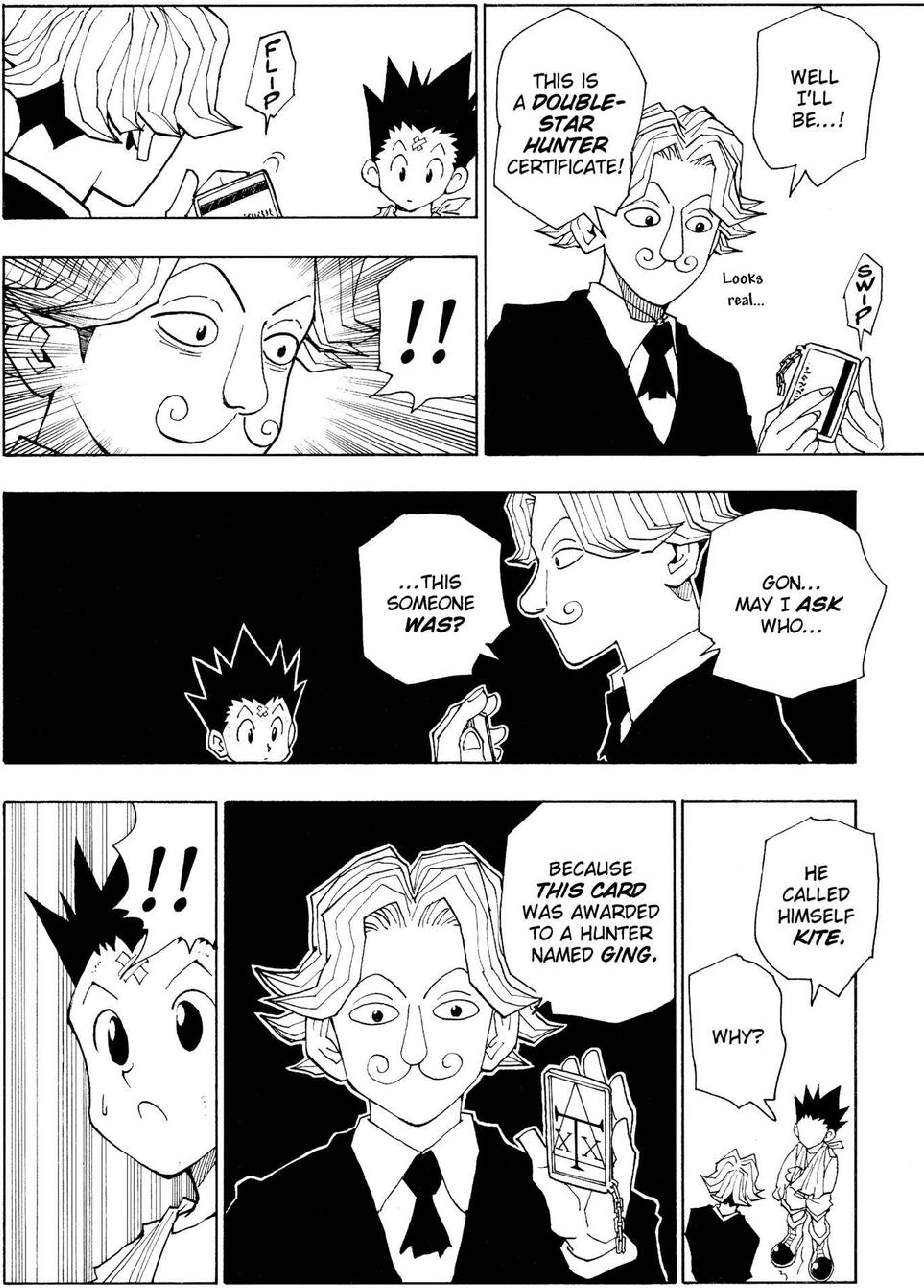

I'M GONNA SEARCH THE WORLD FOR SCIENTIFICALLY UNDOCUMENTED ANIMALS...
...AS A HUNTER OF FANTASTIC BEASTS.
I CAN TROLL FOR INFO ON OTHER STUFF WHILE I'M AT IT.
ANYTHING FOR YOU, GON?
HMM...
...I AM TRYING TO FIND A HUNTER NAMED GING.
ANY HINT OR RUMOR WILL DO.
"GING"... RIGHT. GOT A PICTURE?
BEEP
BEEP
SURE.
ZWEEM
HOW 'BOUT YOU GUYS?
NOT RIGHT NOW.
WELL, IF YOU THINK OF ANYTHING...
...HERE'S MY HOME CODE.
THANK YOU. THIS IS MINE.
AND MINE.
?
?


I'D BETTER GET YOURS TOO, GON.
UM... ER...
... WHAT'S A **HOME CODE?**
SORRY, GON, I FORGOT YOU APPLIED WITHOUT KNOWING ***ANYTHING*** ABOUT HUNTING.
A HOME CODE GIVES ACCESS TO A SYSTEM THAT'S LIKE AN ***ANSWERING MACHINE.***
SINCE HUNTERS ARE USUALLY OUT AND ABOUT, HITHER AND YON, ALL OVER THE WORLD, WE NEED A WAY TO KEEP IN TOUCH. THE HOME CODE SYSTEM WAS SET UP FOR THAT.
MESSAGE
MESSAGE
MESSAGE
YOU CAN RETRIEVE MESSAGES VIA A CELL PHONE FROM WHEREVER YOU ARE.
OF COURSE, IT'S BEST TO KEEP MESSAGES SHORT, SIMPLE, AND SECRET-FREE.
YOU WANT TO USE CODE WORDS, AND EXCHANGE ***CRUCIAL*** INFORMATION ***ONLY IN PERSON.***
AND THIS STUFF ABOUT ***SURFING?***
THAT, M'BOY, INVOLVES ***CYBERSPACE.***
IT IS A SORT OF ***ELECTRONIC UNIVERSAL ENCYCLOPEDIA,*** GON.
BY PURCHASING YOUR OWN PHONE LINE AND A REGISTRATION NUMBER, YOU GAIN ACCESS TO ALL THE INFORMATION THAT CAN BE FOUND ON ANY COMPUTER IN THE WORLD.
SMART
THAT'S RIGHT. OF COURSE, MOST OF IT'S KINDA TRIVIAL—OUTRIGHT GARBAGE, REALLY, LITTERED WITH STUPID RUMORS. BUT IT'S STILL THE BEST SOURCE FOR THE REAL NITTY-GRITTY.

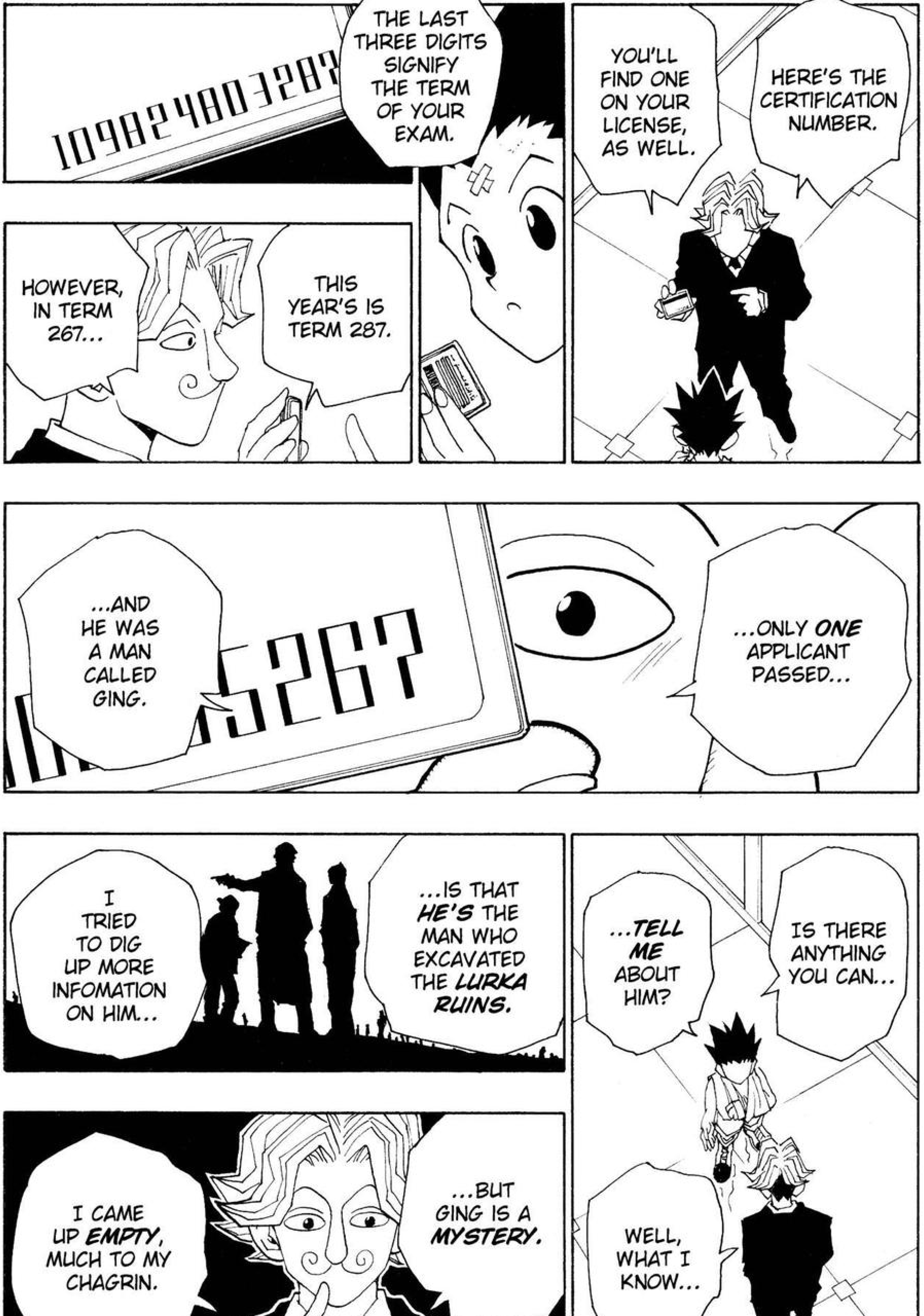

GOING THERE TO LOOK STUFF UP IS CALLED "SURFING."
HERE'S A REGISTRATION CARD.
I SEE.
A HOME CODE, A CELL PHONE, AND CYBERSPACE REGISTRATION...
...ARE A HUNTER'S *THREE* PRIMARY COMMUNICATIONS TOOLS.
YOU SHOULD GET SET UP WITH 'EM, GON.
Hmm...
OH!
YOU CAN SURF WITH THE *HUNTER LICENSE*, TOO.
OH YEAH, *THEY DID* MENTION THAT.
THEY DID?!
I wasn't listening...
AND *WITH* A HUNTER LICENSE, CYBERSPACE IS AVAILABLE TO YOU FOR *FREE*.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE IT A TRY?
FRET
Ulp!
HMM.. I'LL *PASS!*
FRET
FRET
I DON'T WANT TO *USE* IT YET.
C'MON, GON, THAT'S *SILLY*.
ALL RIGHT, WE WILL USE MINE.

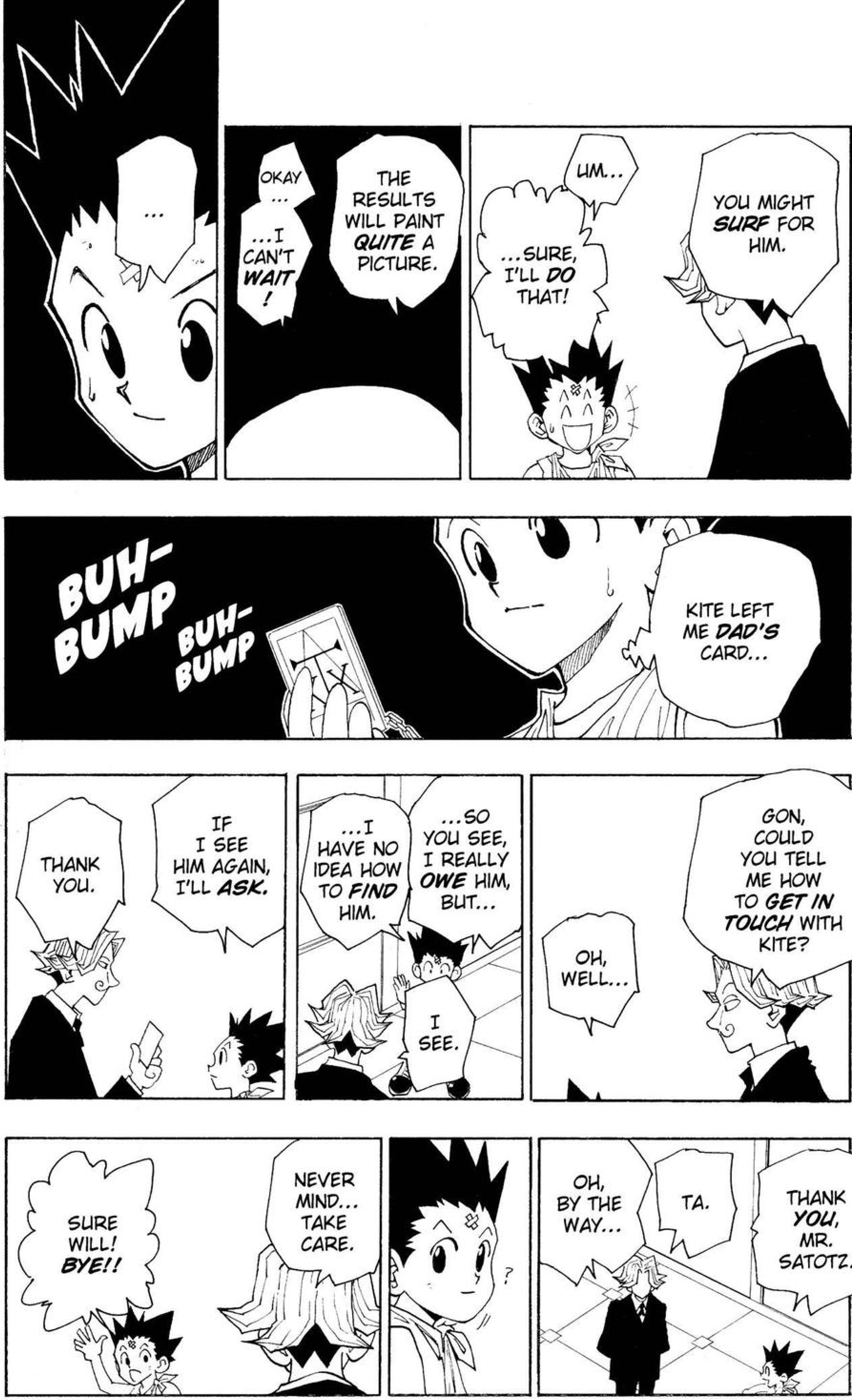
READ THIS WAY

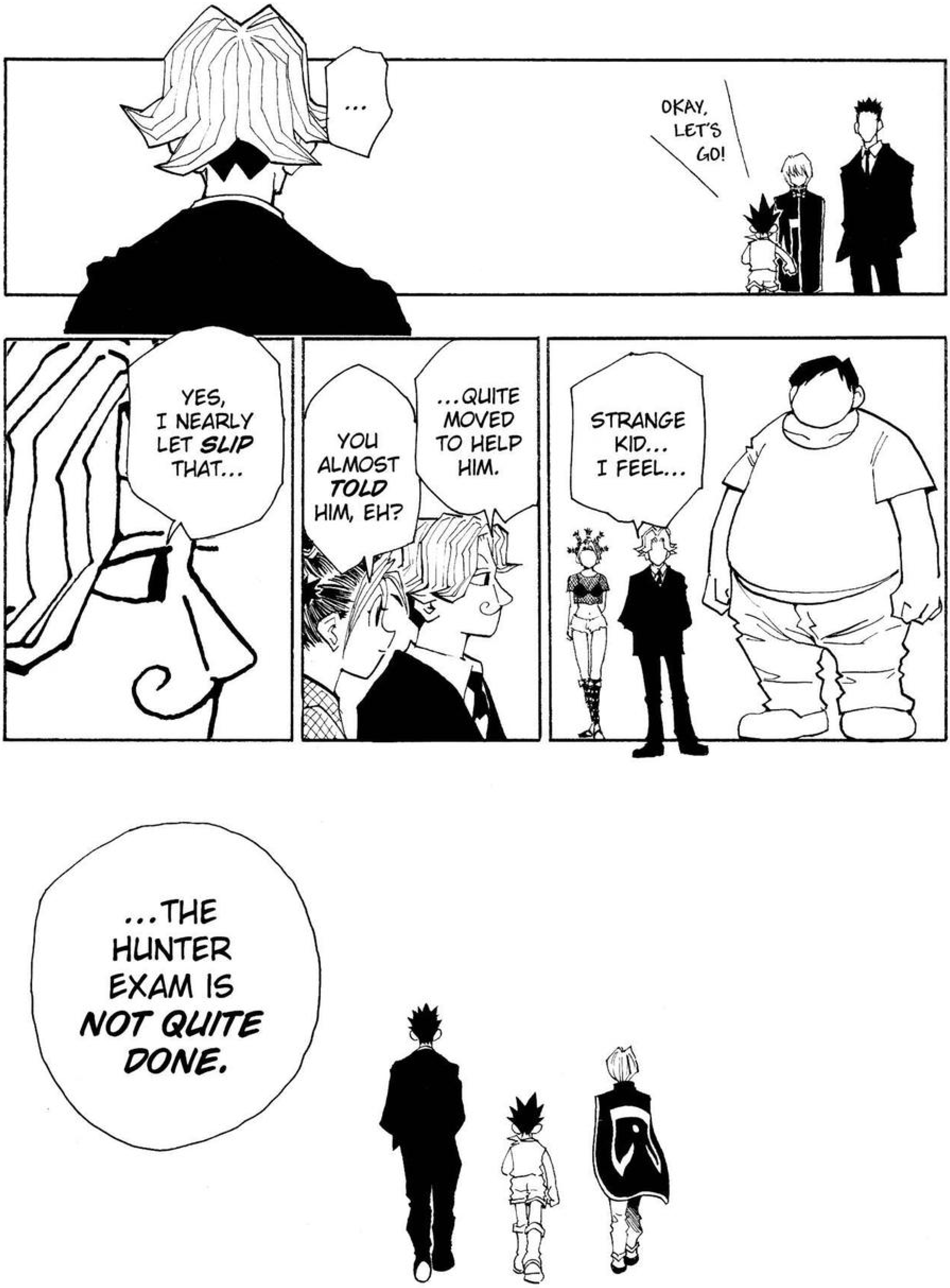

WHEN YOU GET A HOME CODE, CALL ME, OKAY?
OKAY...
...THANKS.
LATER, GUYS.
WHAT SAY *WE* TAKE OFF, TOO?
OH...
...HANG ON!
MR. SATOTZ!
CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT *THIS* IS?
EH?
SOMEONE I KNOW... UM... DROPPED IT.
I'D ALWAYS ASSUMED IT WAS A HUNTER LICENSE.
HM...

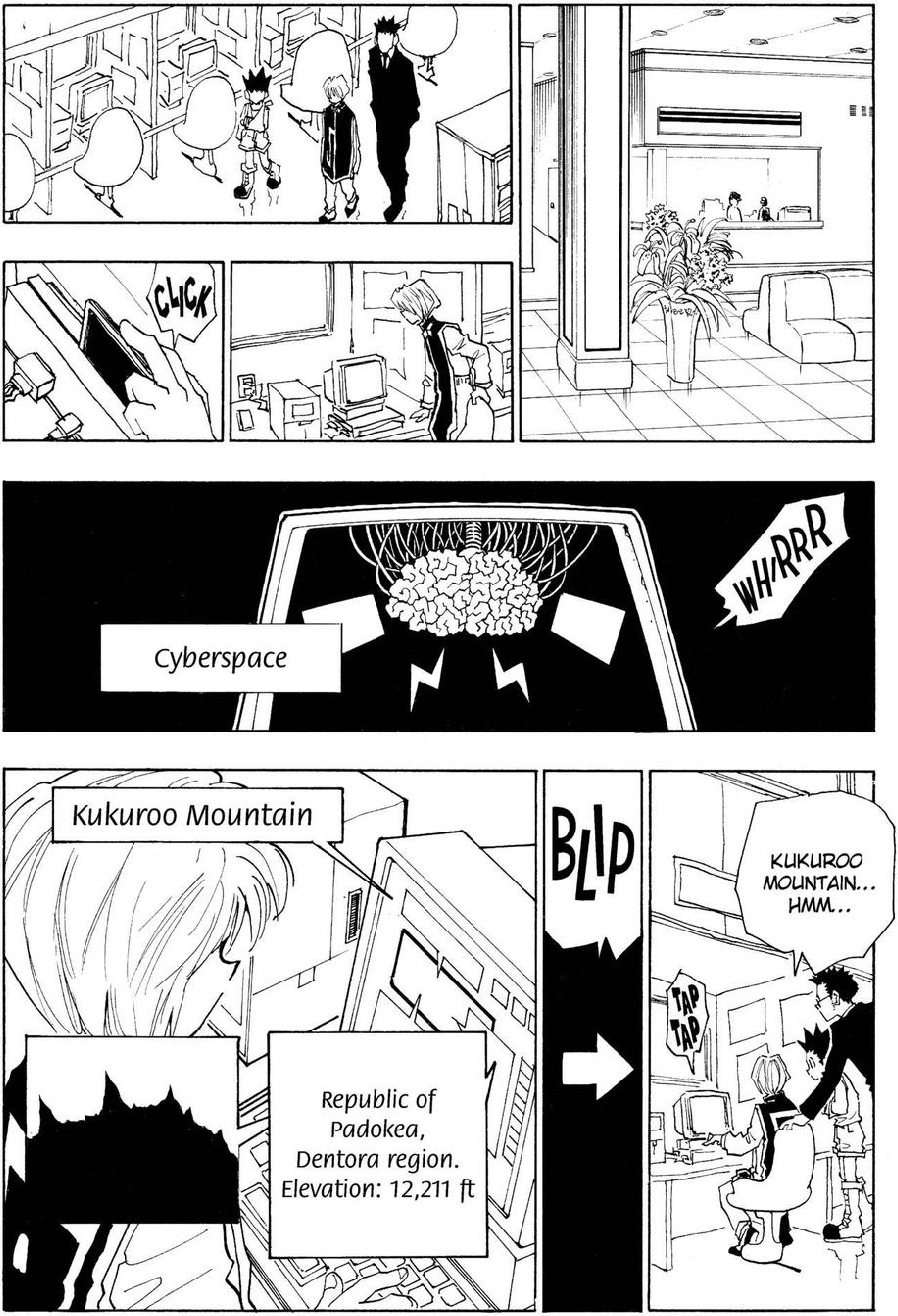

WELL I'LL BE...!
THIS IS A **DOUBLE-STAR HUNTER** CERTIFICATE!
Looks real...
SWIP
FLIP
!!
GON... MAY I **ASK** WHO...
...THIS SOMEONE **WAS?**
HE CALLED HIMSELF **KITE.**
WHY?
BECAUSE **THIS CARD** WAS AWARDED TO A HUNTER NAMED **GING.**
!!

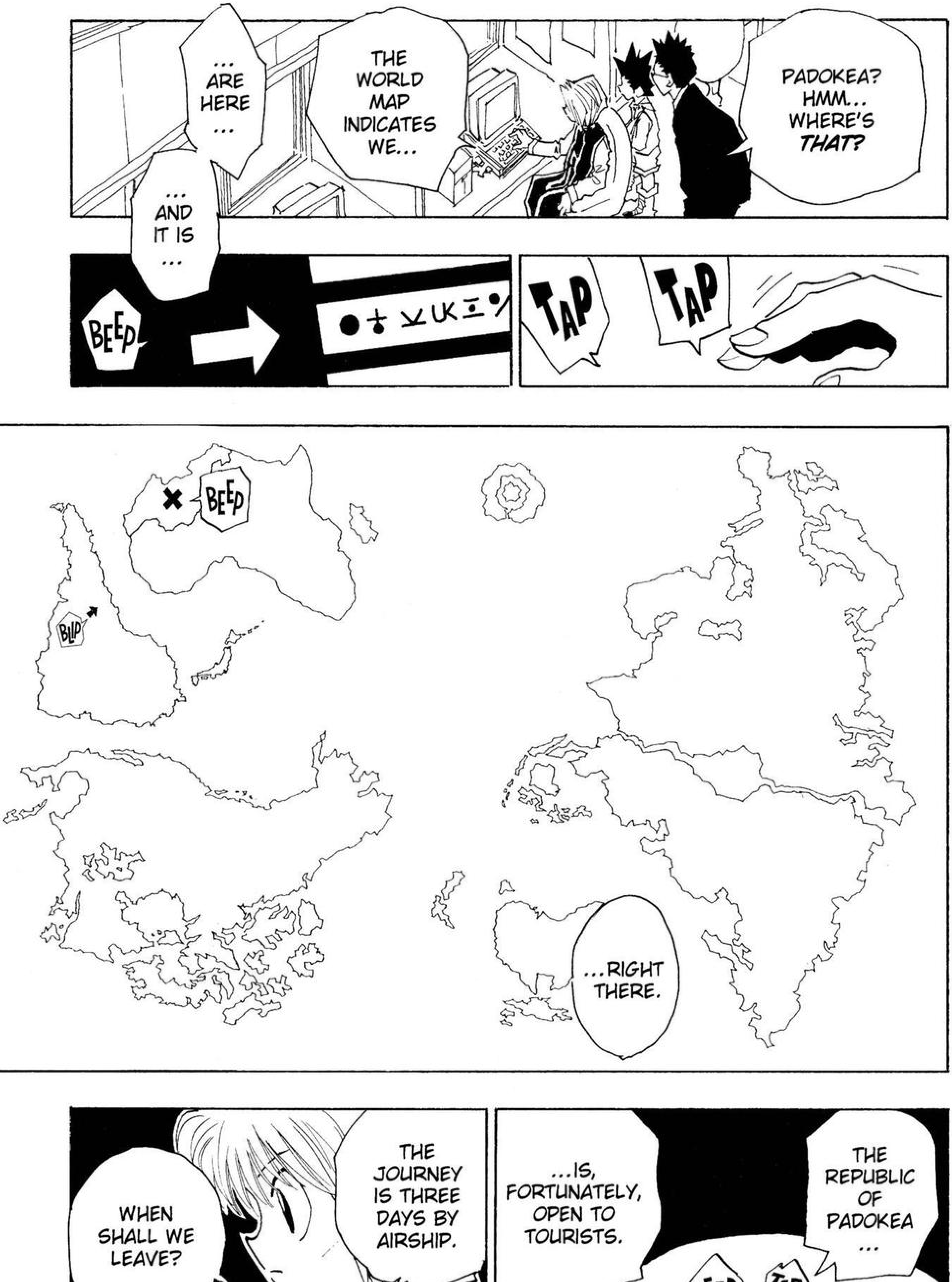
READ THIS WAY

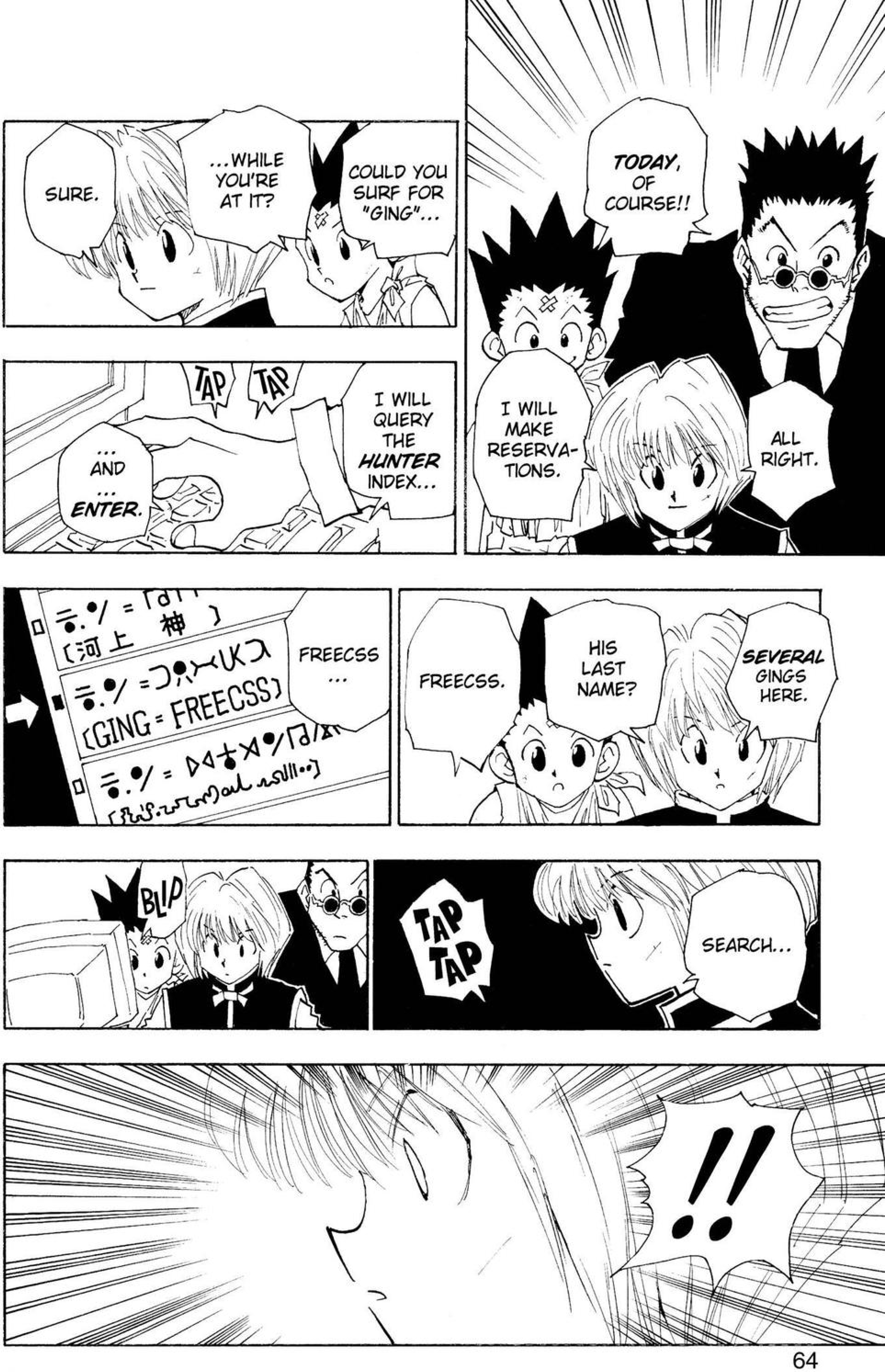

HERE'S THE CERTIFICATION NUMBER.
YOU'LL FIND ONE ON YOUR LICENSE, AS WELL.
THE LAST THREE DIGITS SIGNIFY THE TERM OF YOUR EXAM.
109824803287
THIS YEAR'S IS TERM 287.
HOWEVER, IN TERM 267...
...ONLY *ONE* APPLICANT PASSED...
5267
...AND HE WAS A MAN CALLED GING.
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN...
...*TELL ME* ABOUT HIM?
WELL, WHAT I KNOW...
...IS THAT *HE'S* THE MAN WHO EXCAVATED THE *LURKA RUINS.*
I TRIED TO DIG UP MORE INFOMATION ON HIM...
...BUT GING IS A *MYSTERY.*
I CAME UP *EMPTY*, MUCH TO MY CHAGRIN.

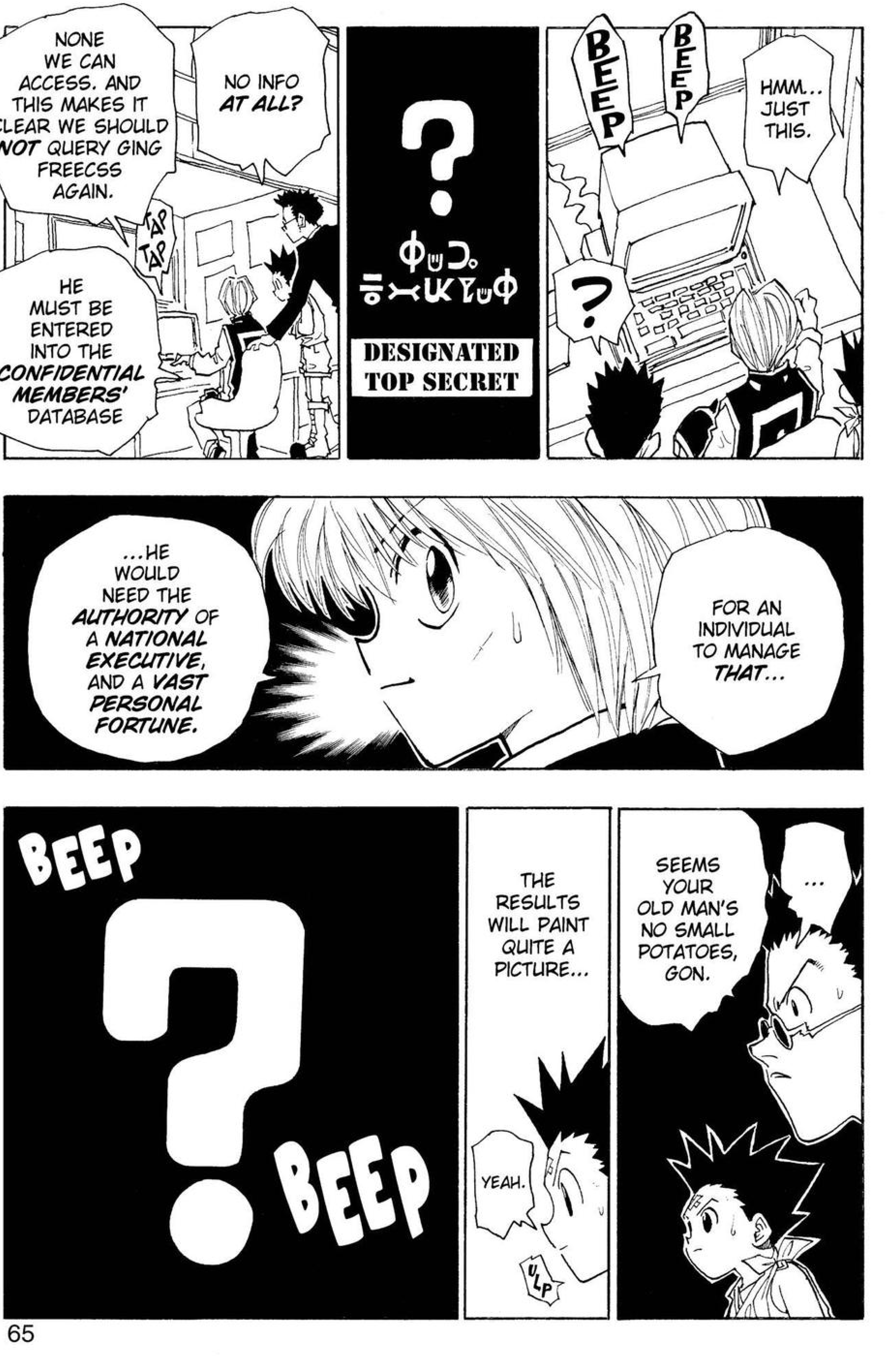

YOU MIGHT *SURF* FOR HIM.
UM...
...SURE, I'LL *DO* THAT!
THE RESULTS WILL PAINT *QUITE* A PICTURE.
OKAY...
...I CAN'T *WAIT*!
...
KITE LEFT ME *DAD'S* CARD...
BUH-BUMP
BUH-BUMP
GON, COULD YOU TELL ME HOW TO *GET IN TOUCH* WITH KITE?
OH, WELL...
...SO YOU SEE, I REALLY *OWE* HIM, BUT...
...I HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO *FIND* HIM.
I SEE.
IF I SEE HIM AGAIN, I'LL *ASK*.
THANK YOU.
THANK *YOU*, MR. SATOTZ.
TA.
OH, BY THE WAY...
?
NEVER MIND... TAKE CARE.
SURE WILL! *BYE!!*

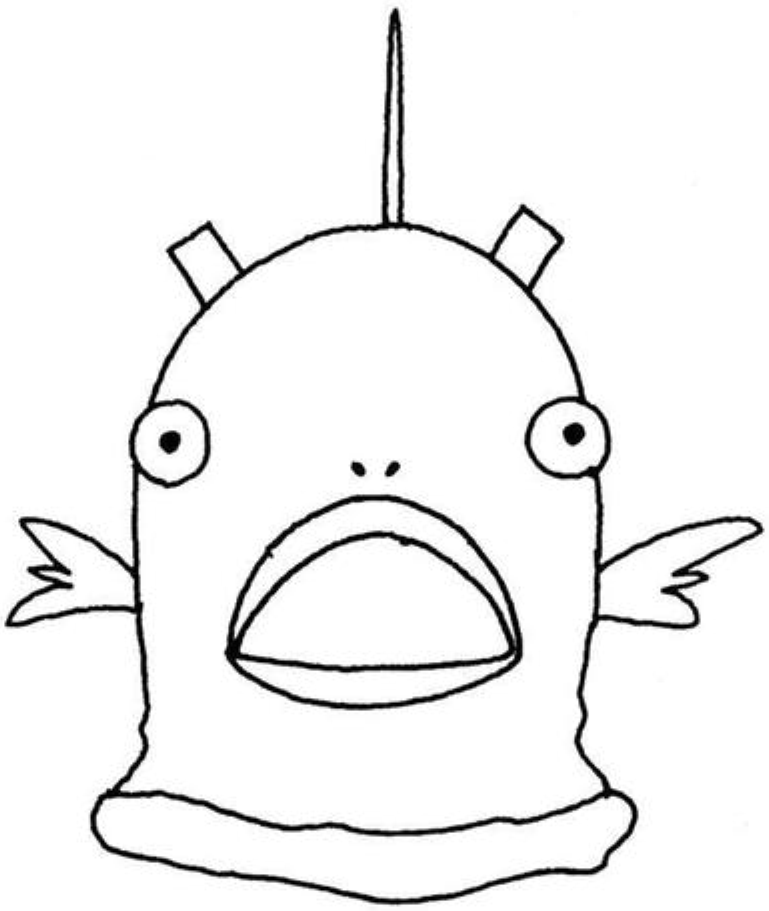

OKAY, LET'S GO!
...
STRANGE KID... I FEEL...
...QUITE MOVED TO HELP HIM.
YOU ALMOST TOLD HIM, EH?
YES, I NEARLY LET SLIP THAT...
...THE HUNTER EXAM IS NOT QUITE DONE.

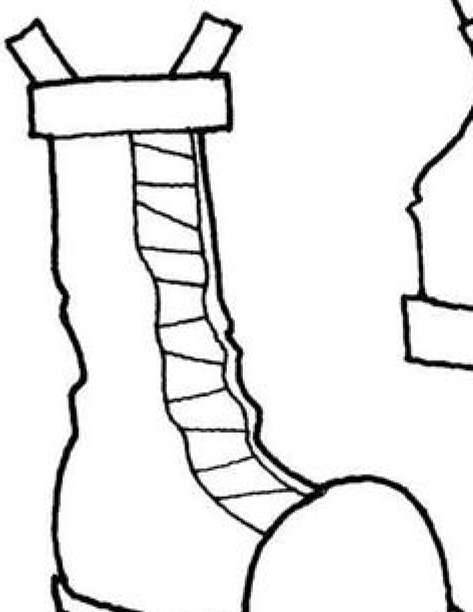

CLICK
Cyberspace
WHIRRR
Kukuroo Mountain
Republic of Padokea, Dentora region. Elevation: 12,211 ft
BLIP
TAP TAP
KUKUROO MOUNTAIN... HMM..

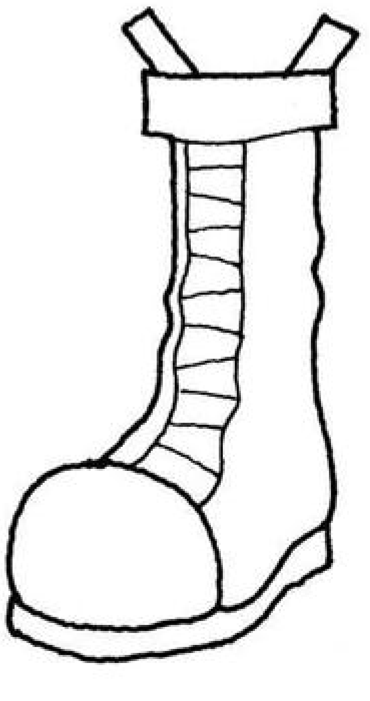

PADOKEA? HMM... WHERE'S *THAT?*
THE WORLD MAP INDICATES WE...
...ARE HERE...
...AND IT IS...
TAP
TAP
BEEP
BEEP
BLIP
...RIGHT THERE.
THE REPUBLIC OF PADOKEA...
TAP TAP
BEEP
...IS, FORTUNATELY, OPEN TO TOURISTS.
THE JOURNEY IS THREE DAYS BY AIRSHIP.
WHEN SHALL WE LEAVE?

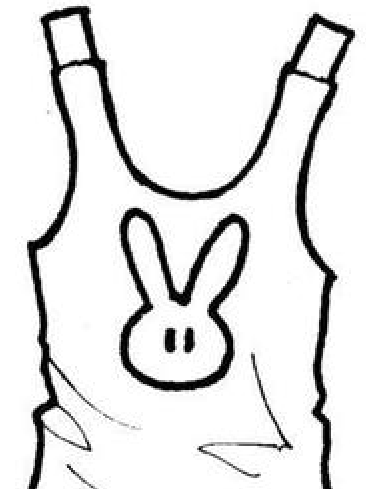

TODAY, OF COURSE!!
ALL RIGHT.
I WILL MAKE RESERVATIONS.
COULD YOU SURF FOR "GING"...
...WHILE YOU'RE AT IT?
SURE.
I WILL QUERY THE HUNTER INDEX...
TAP
TAP
... AND ... ENTER.
SEVERAL GINGS HERE.
HIS LAST NAME?
FREECSS.
FREECSS ...
〔河上 神〕
〔GING = FREECSS〕
TAP TAP
SEARCH...
BLIP
!!

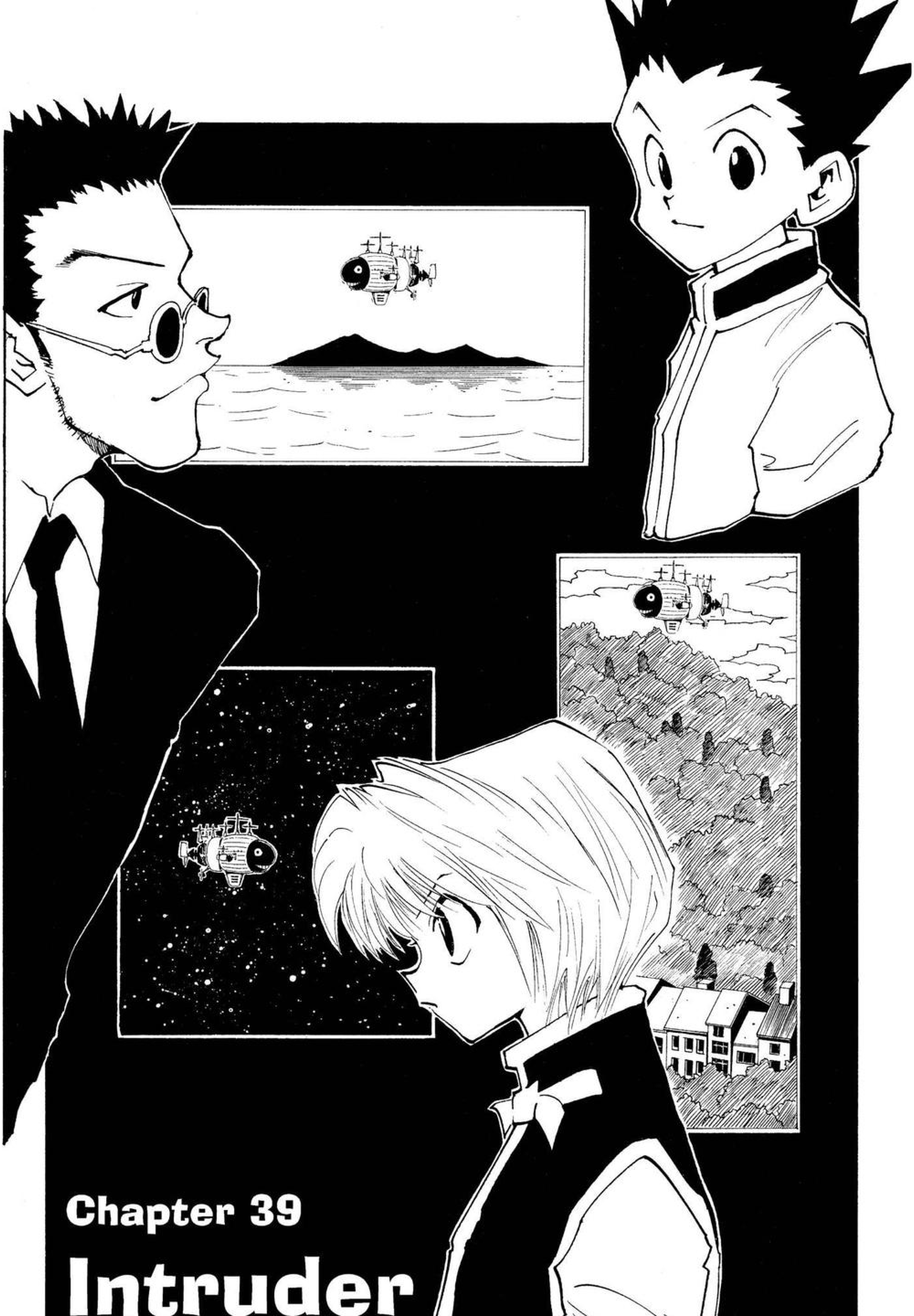

BEEP
BEEP
HMM... JUST THIS.
?
?
DESIGNATED TOP SECRET
NO INFO *AT ALL?*
NONE WE CAN ACCESS. AND THIS MAKES IT CLEAR WE SHOULD ***NOT*** QUERY GING FREECSS AGAIN.
TAP TAP
HE MUST BE ENTERED INTO THE ***CONFIDENTIAL MEMBERS'*** DATABASE
FOR AN INDIVIDUAL TO MANAGE *THAT*...
...HE WOULD NEED THE ***AUTHORITY*** OF A ***NATIONAL EXECUTIVE,*** AND A ***VAST PERSONAL FORTUNE.***
...
SEEMS YOUR OLD MAN'S NO SMALL POTATOES, GON.
THE RESULTS WILL PAINT QUITE A PICTURE...
YEAH.
ULP
BEEP
?
BEEP





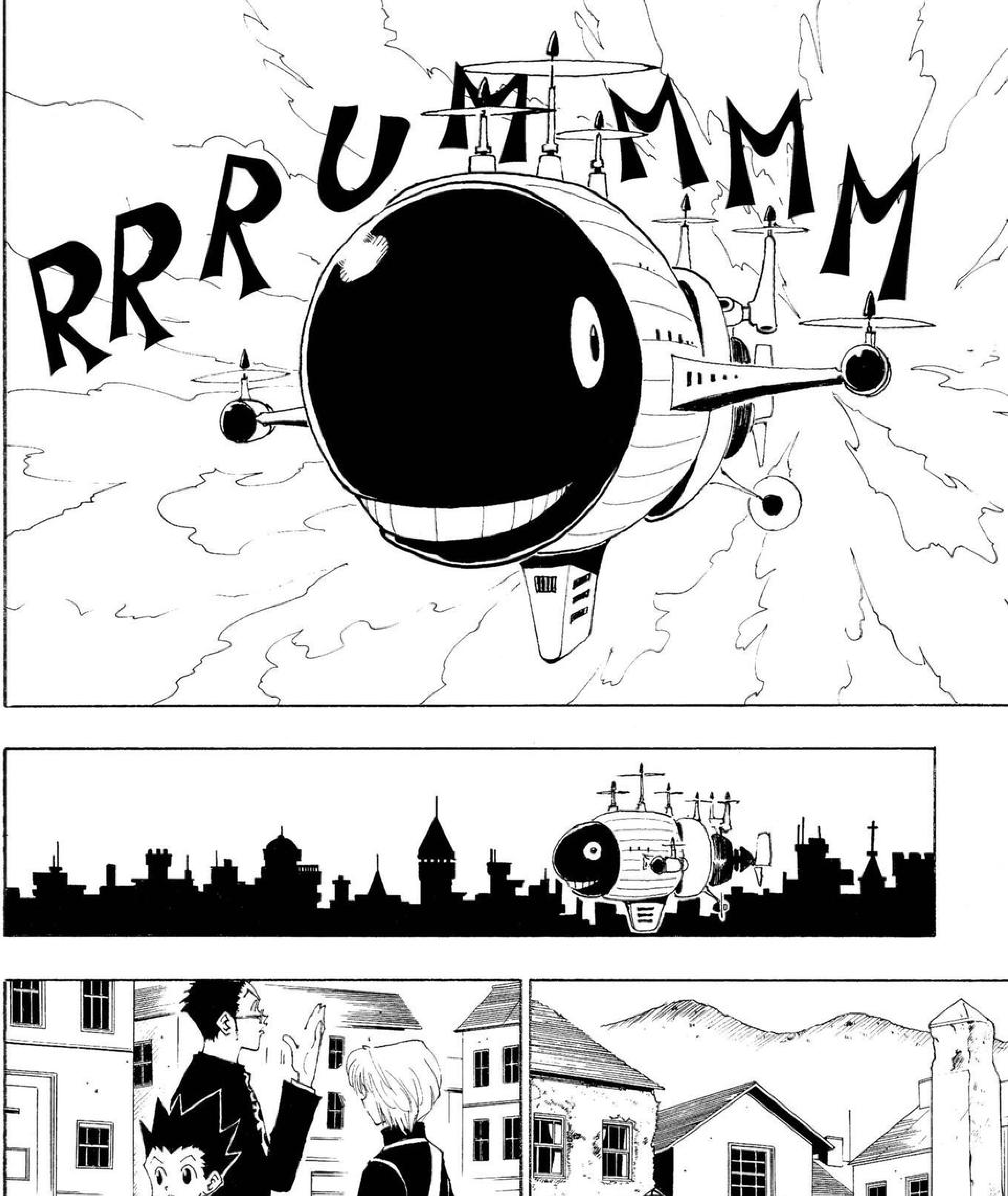




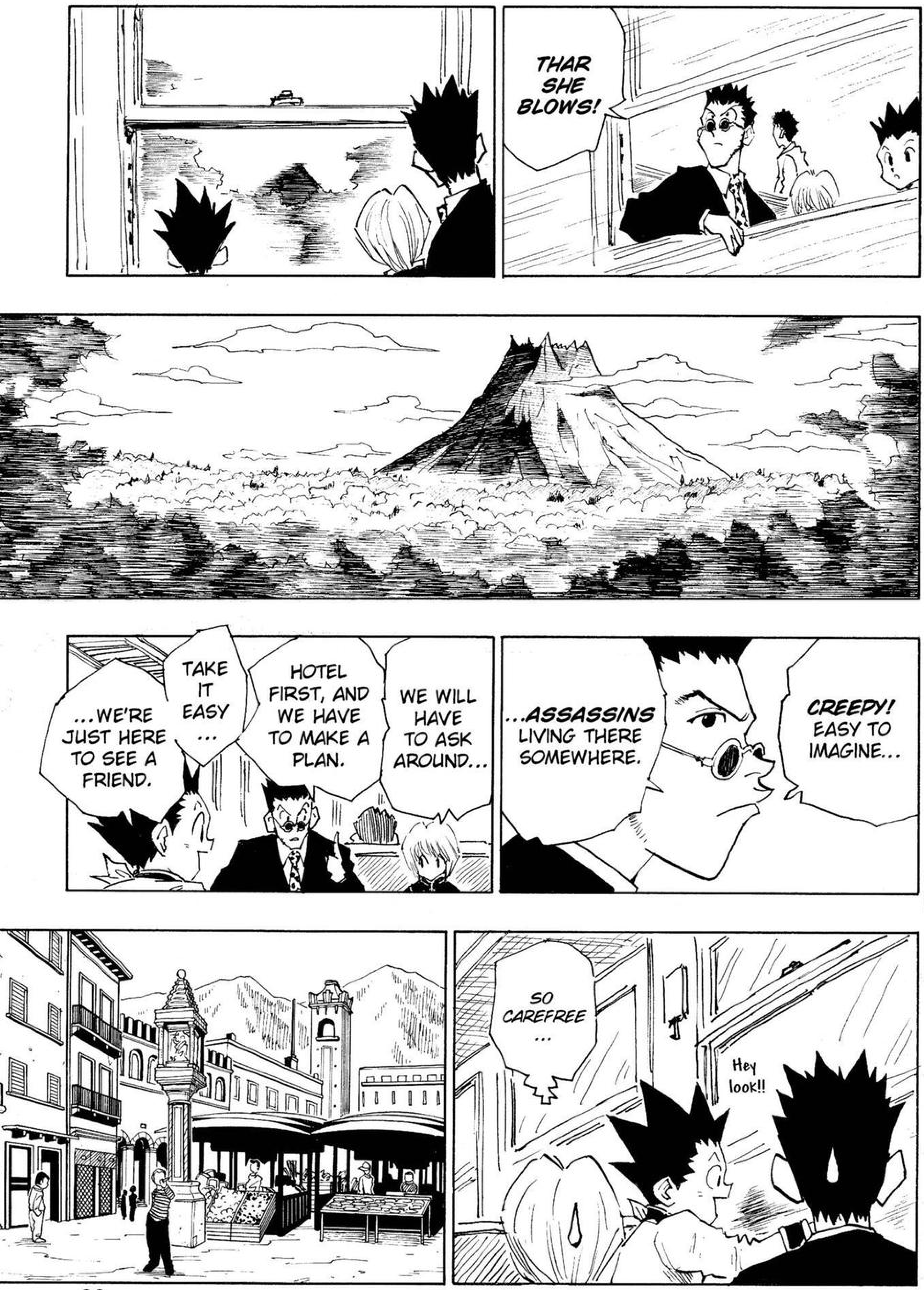


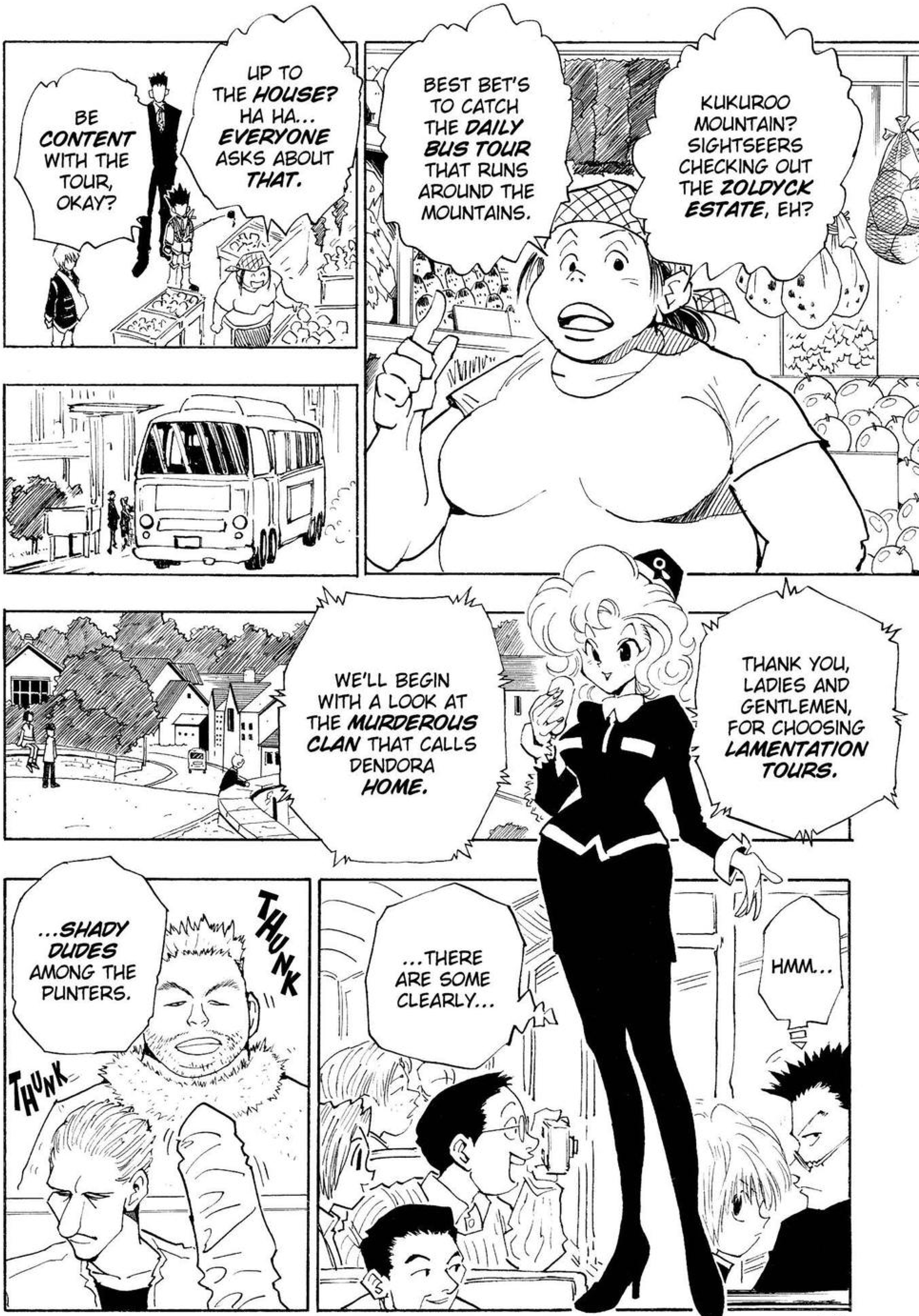
Chapter 39

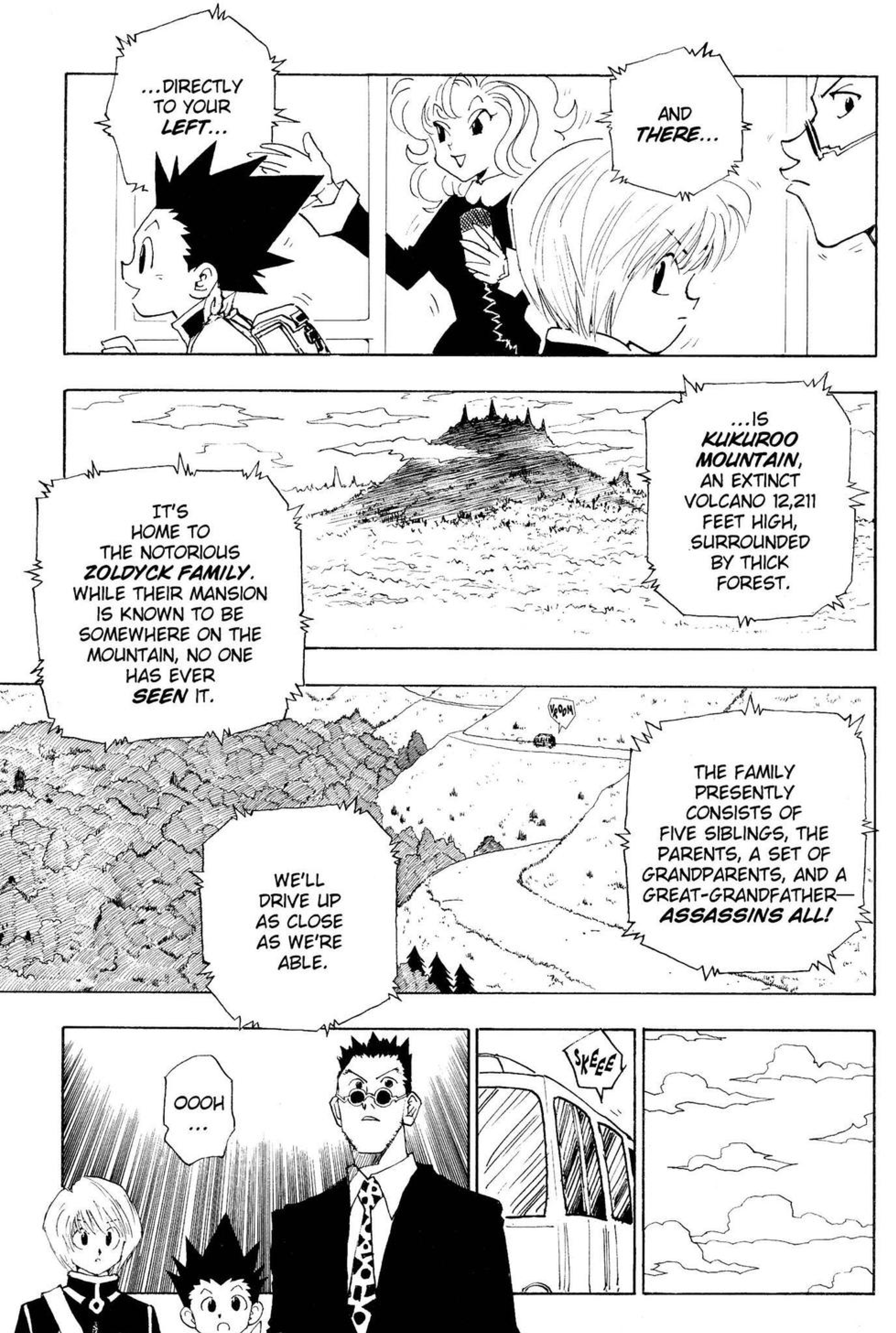
Intruder

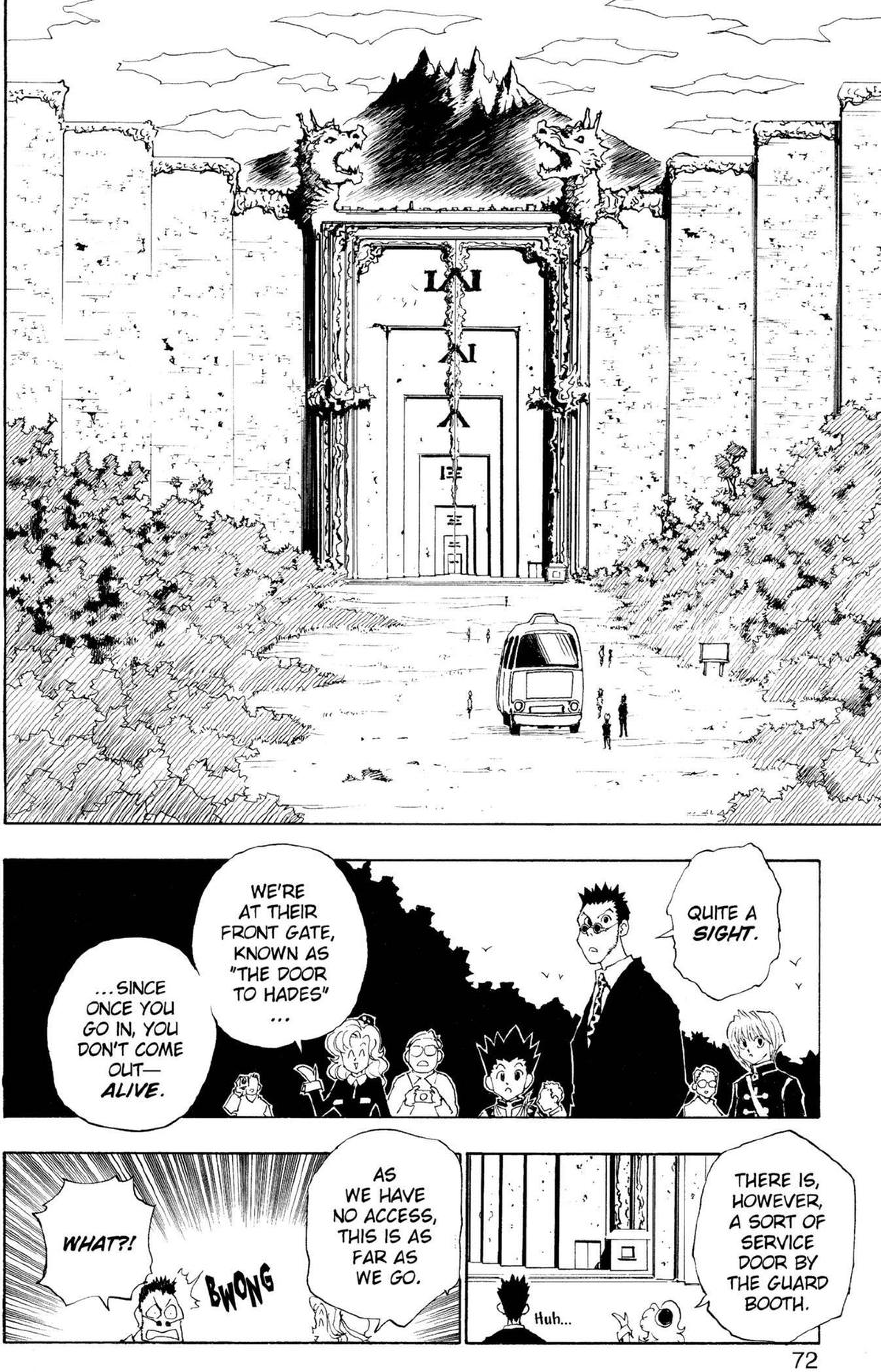

RRRUMMMM

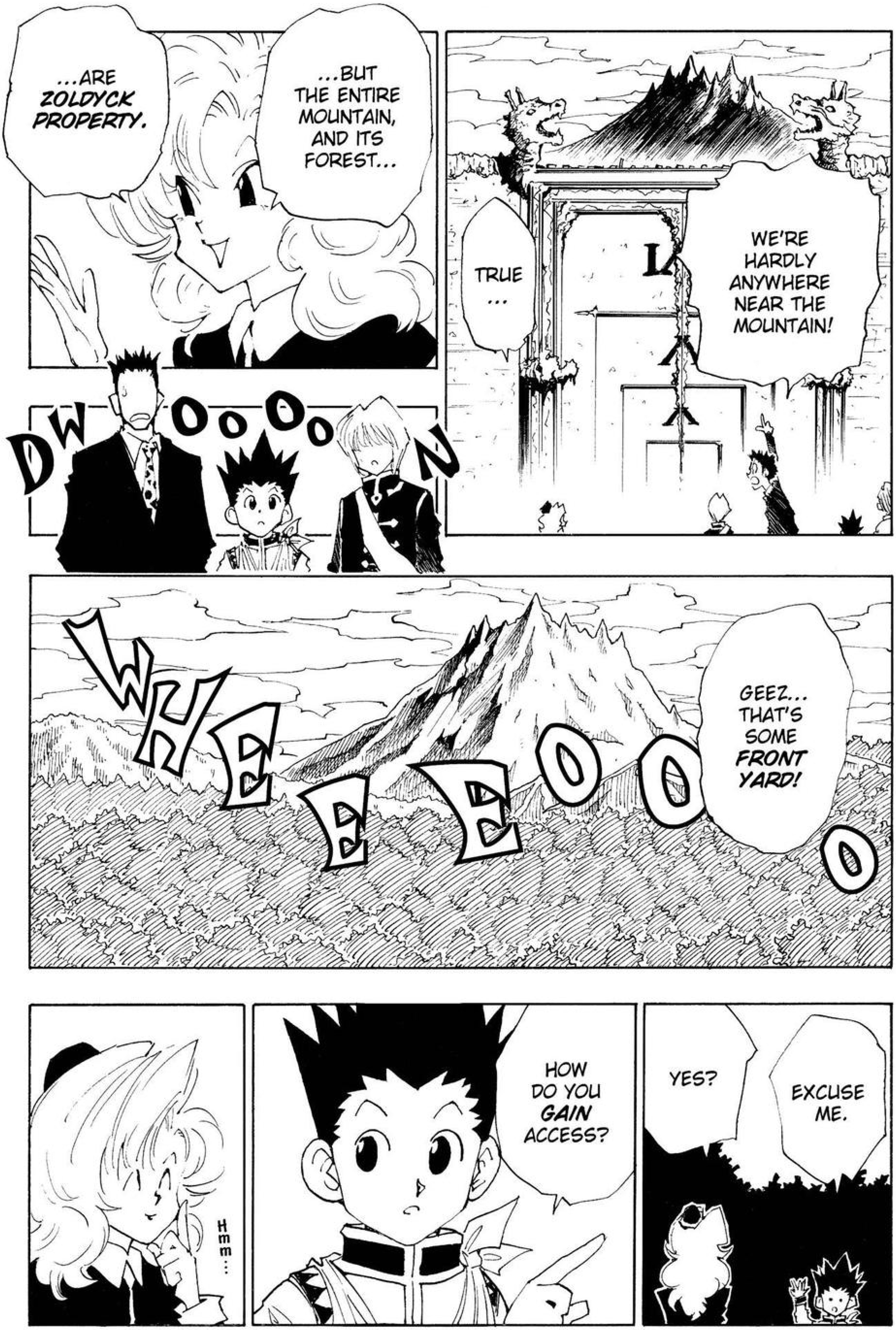
READ THIS WAY

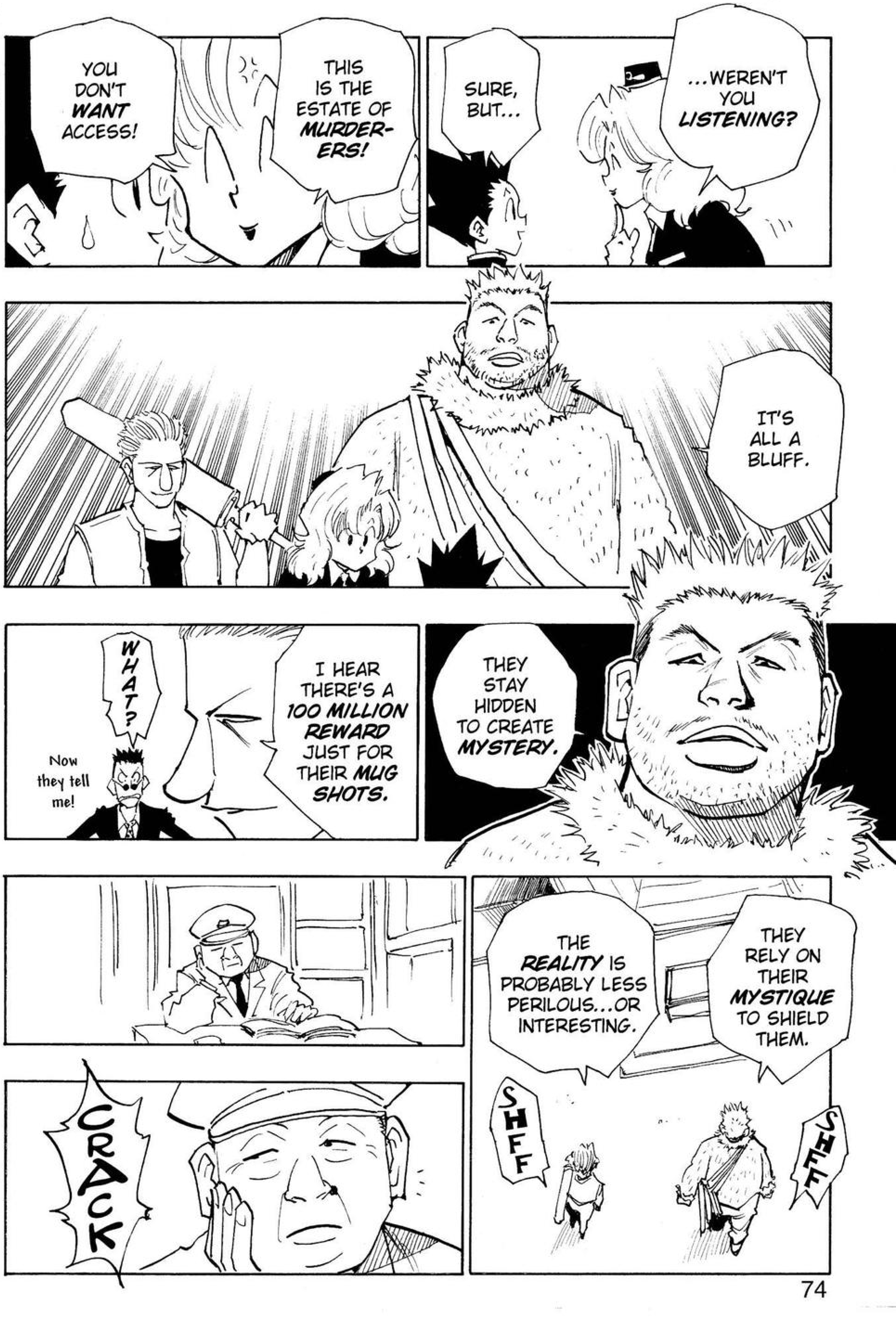

THAR SHE BLOWS!
CREEPY! EASY TO IMAGINE...
...ASSASSINS LIVING THERE SOMEWHERE.
WE WILL HAVE TO ASK AROUND...
HOTEL FIRST, AND WE HAVE TO MAKE A PLAN.
TAKE IT EASY...
...WE'RE JUST HERE TO SEE A FRIEND.
SO CAREFREE...
Hey look!!

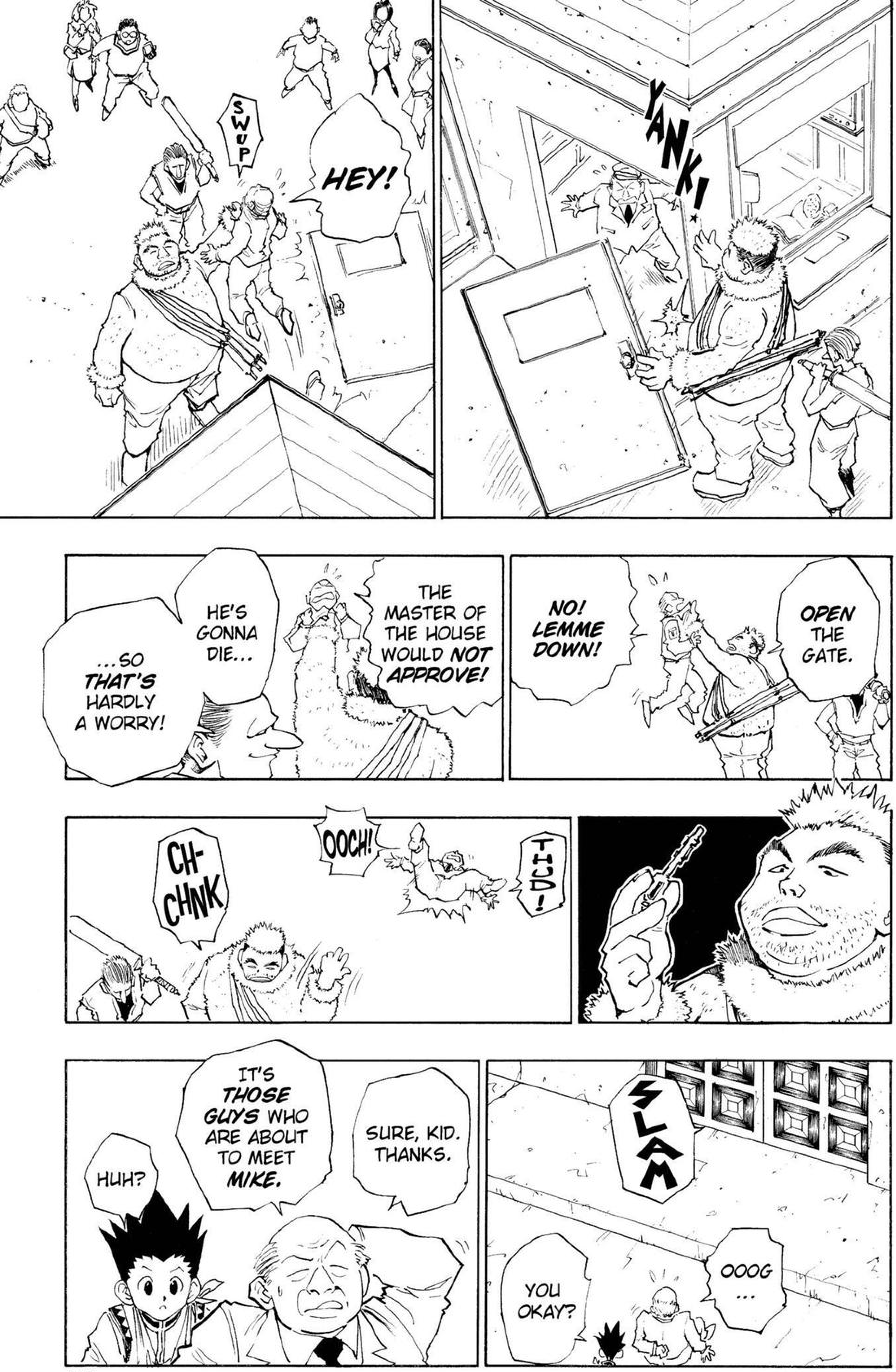

KUKUROO MOUNTAIN? SIGHTSEERS CHECKING OUT THE ZOLDYCK ESTATE, EH?
BEST BET'S TO CATCH THE DAILY BUS TOUR THAT RUNS AROUND THE MOUNTAINS.
UP TO THE HOUSE? HA HA... EVERYONE ASKS ABOUT THAT.
BE CONTENT WITH THE TOUR, OKAY?
THANK YOU, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, FOR CHOOSING LAMENTATION TOURS.
WE'LL BEGIN WITH A LOOK AT THE MURDEROUS CLAN THAT CALLS DENDORA HOME.
HMM...
...THERE ARE SOME CLEARLY...
THUNK
...SHADY DUDES AMONG THE PUNTERS.
THUNK

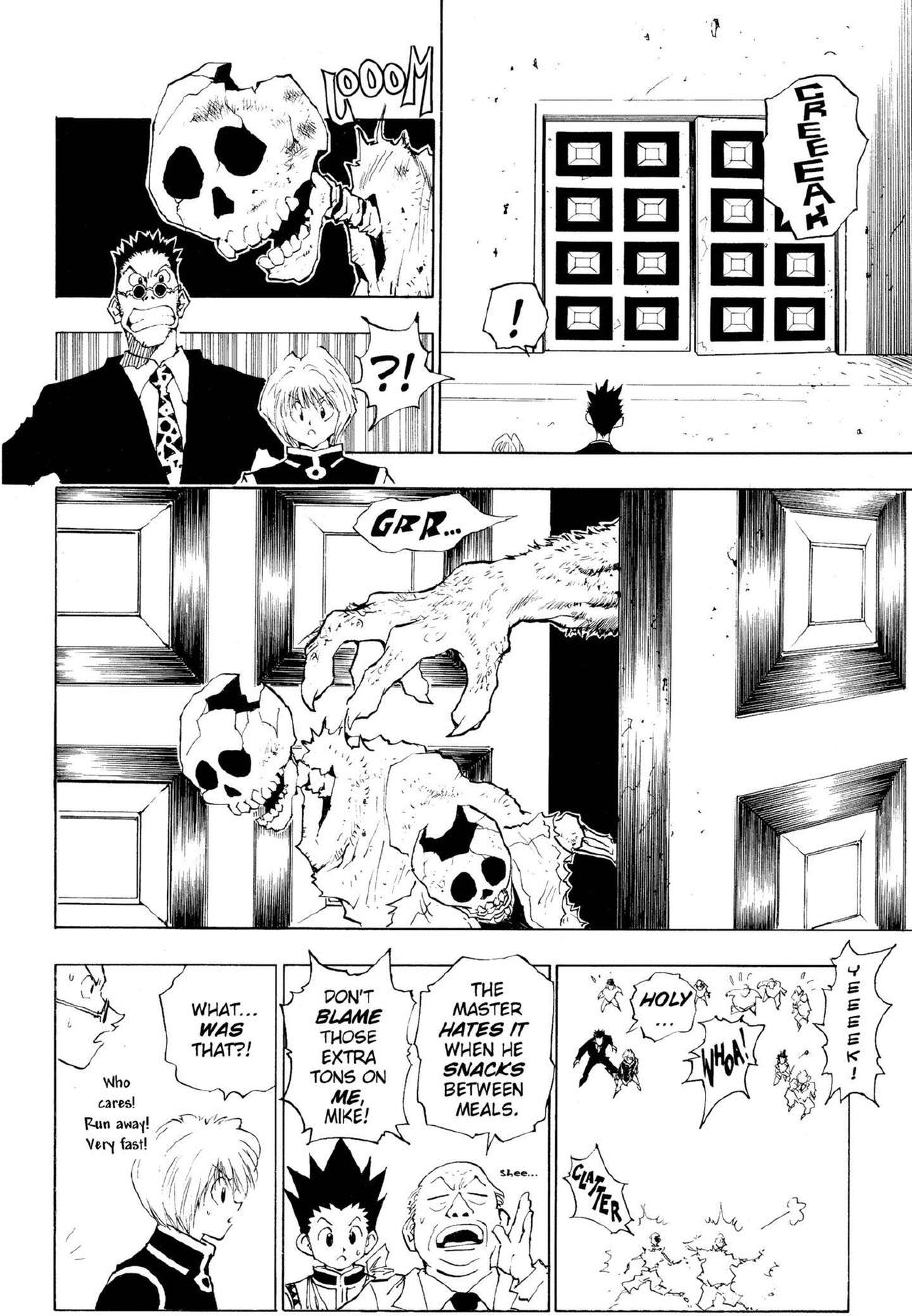

...DIRECTLY TO YOUR **LEFT**...
AND **THERE**...
...IS **KUKUROO MOUNTAIN**, AN EXTINCT VOLCANO 12,211 FEET HIGH, SURROUNDED BY THICK FOREST.
IT'S HOME TO THE NOTORIOUS **ZOLDYCK FAMILY**. WHILE THEIR MANSION IS KNOWN TO BE SOMEWHERE ON THE MOUNTAIN, NO ONE HAS EVER **SEEN** IT.
VROOM
THE FAMILY PRESENTLY CONSISTS OF FIVE SIBLINGS, THE PARENTS, A SET OF GRANDPARENTS, AND A GREAT-GRANDFATHER— **ASSASSINS ALL!**
WE'LL DRIVE UP AS CLOSE AS WE'RE ABLE.
OOOH...
SKEEE

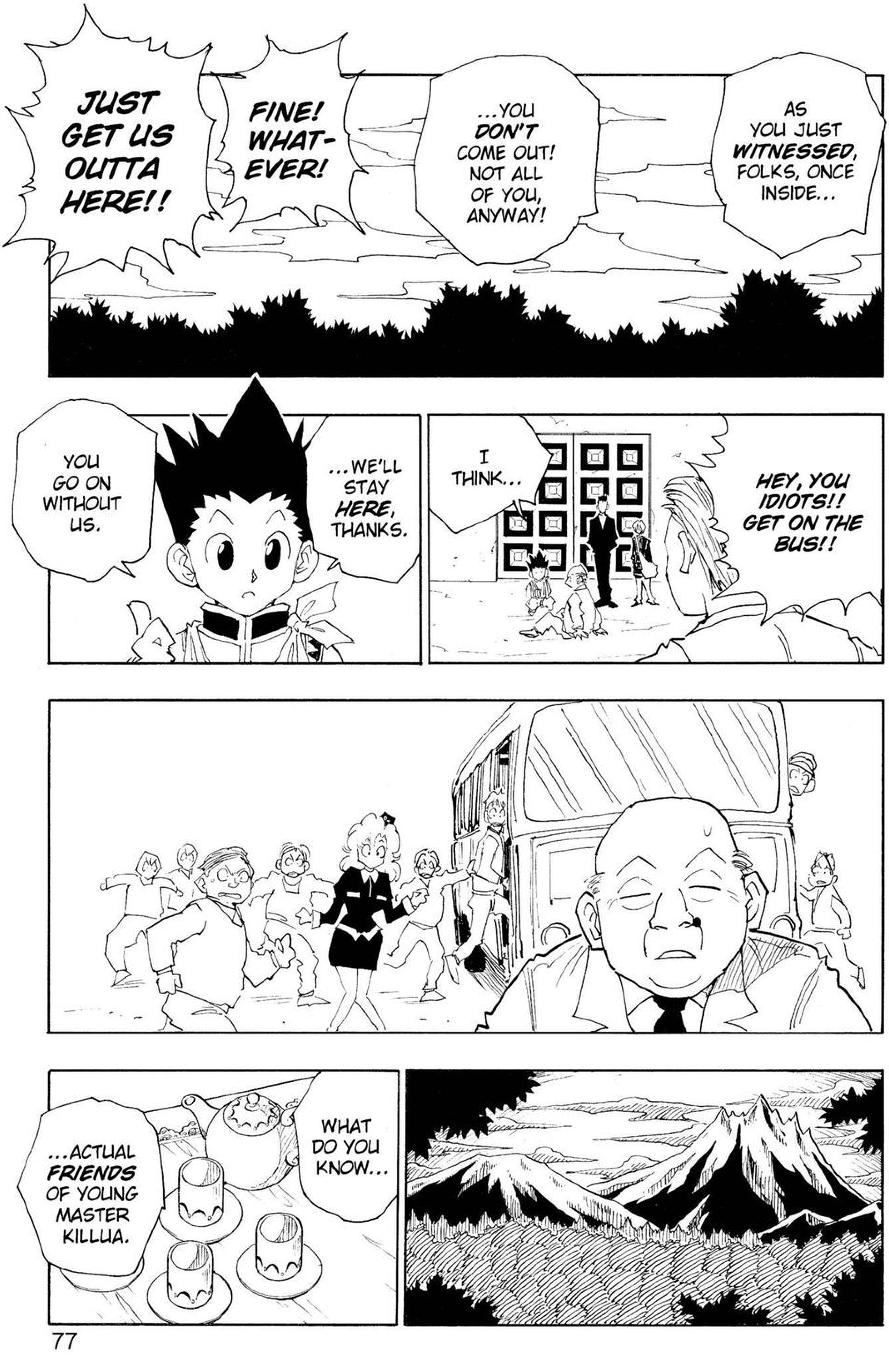

QUITE A SIGHT.
WE'RE AT THEIR FRONT GATE, KNOWN AS "THE DOOR TO HADES"...
...SINCE ONCE YOU GO IN, YOU DON'T COME OUT—ALIVE.
THERE IS, HOWEVER, A SORT OF SERVICE DOOR BY THE GUARD BOOTH.
Huh...
AS WE HAVE NO ACCESS, THIS IS AS FAR AS WE GO.
BWONG
WHAT?!

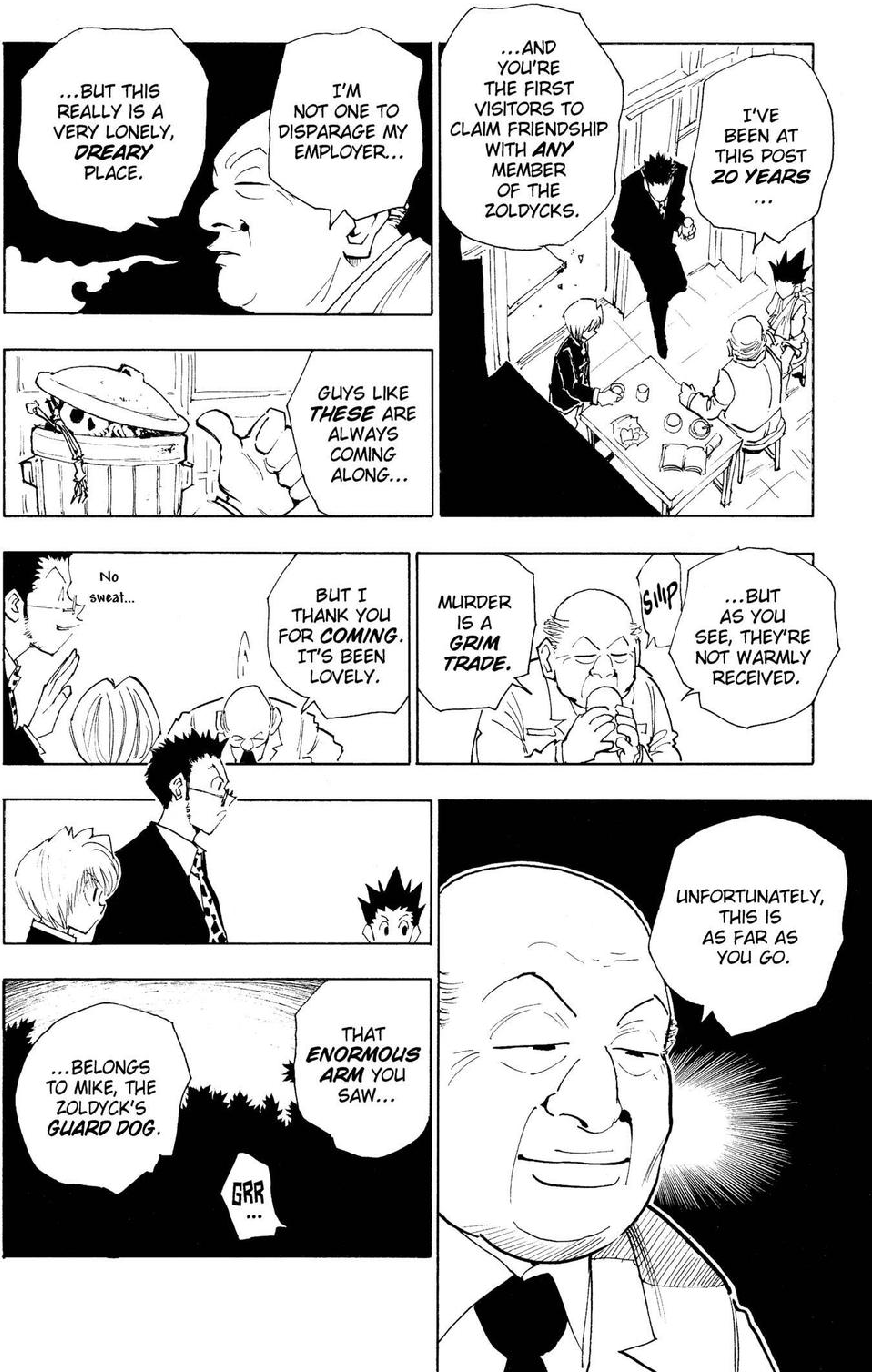

WE'RE HARDLY ANYWHERE NEAR THE MOUNTAIN!
TRUE...
...BUT THE ENTIRE MOUNTAIN, AND ITS FOREST...
...ARE *ZOLDYCK PROPERTY.*
DWOOOOON
GEEZ... THAT'S SOME *FRONT YARD!*
WHEEEOOOO
EXCUSE ME.
YES?
HOW DO YOU *GAIN* ACCESS?
Hmm...

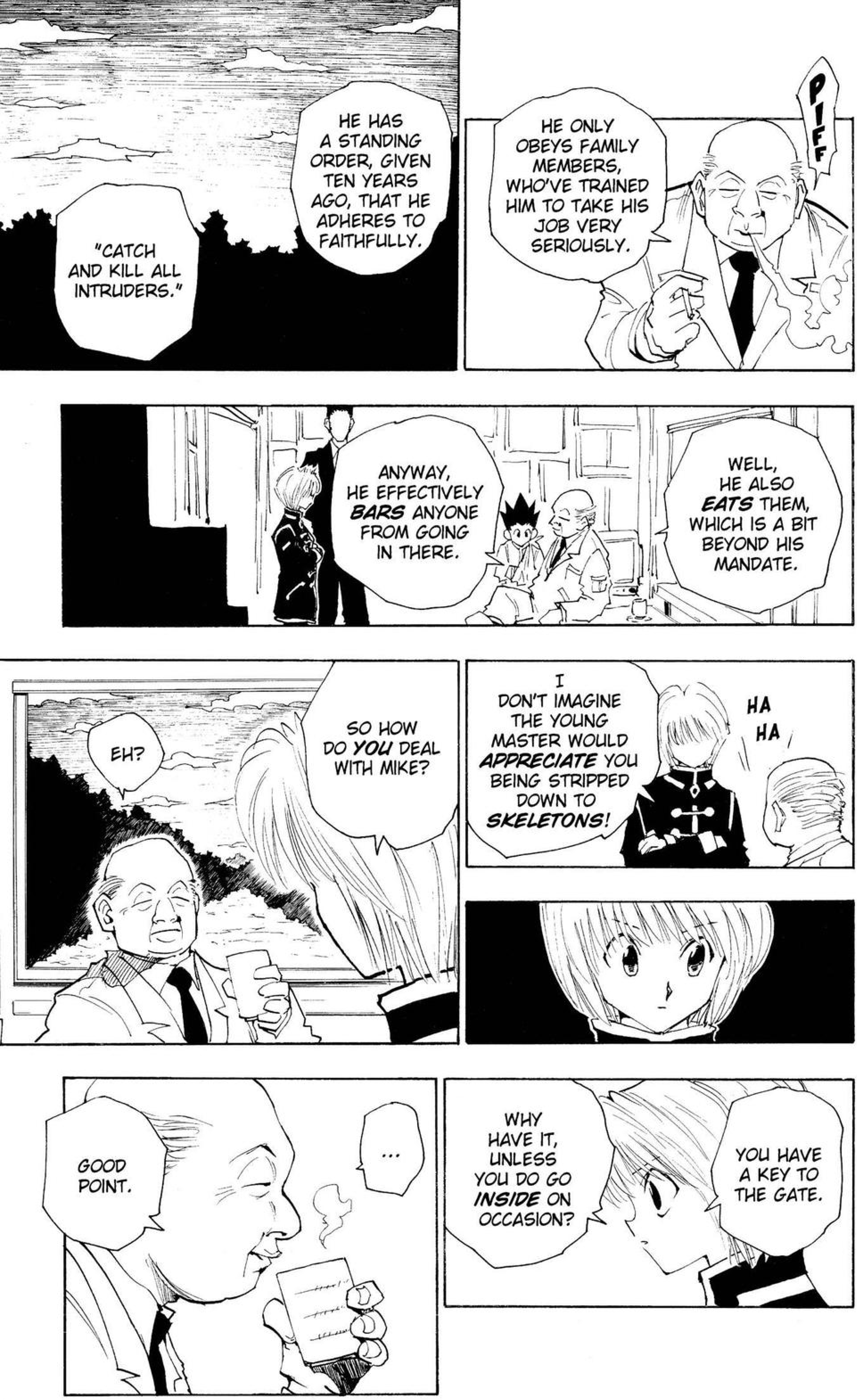

YOU DON'T *WANT* ACCESS!
THIS IS THE ESTATE OF *MURDERERS!*
SURE, BUT...
...WEREN'T YOU *LISTENING?*
IT'S ALL A BLUFF.
THEY STAY HIDDEN TO CREATE *MYSTERY.*
I HEAR THERE'S A *100 MILLION REWARD* JUST FOR THEIR *MUG SHOTS.*
WHAT?
Now they tell me!
THEY RELY ON THEIR *MYSTIQUE* TO SHIELD THEM.
THE *REALITY* IS PROBABLY LESS PERILOUS...OR INTERESTING.
SHFF
SHFF
CRACK

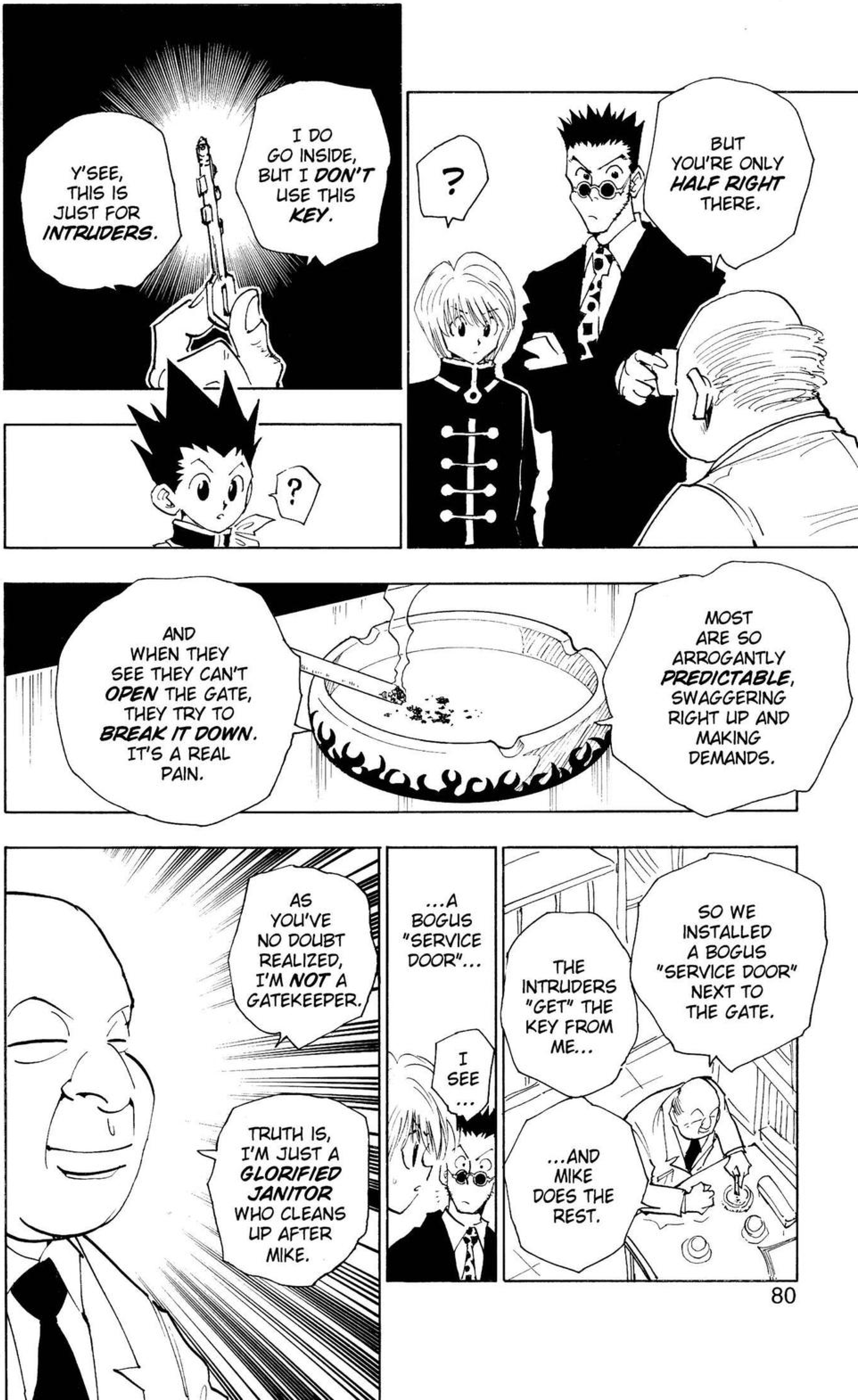

YANK!
HEY!
SWUP
OPEN THE GATE.
NO! LEMME DOWN!
THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE WOULD NOT APPROVE!
HE'S GONNA DIE...
...SO THAT'S HARDLY A WORRY!
THUD!
OOCH!
CH-CHNK
SLAM
OOOG ...
YOU OKAY?
SURE, KID. THANKS.
IT'S THOSE GUYS WHO ARE ABOUT TO MEET MIKE.
HUH?

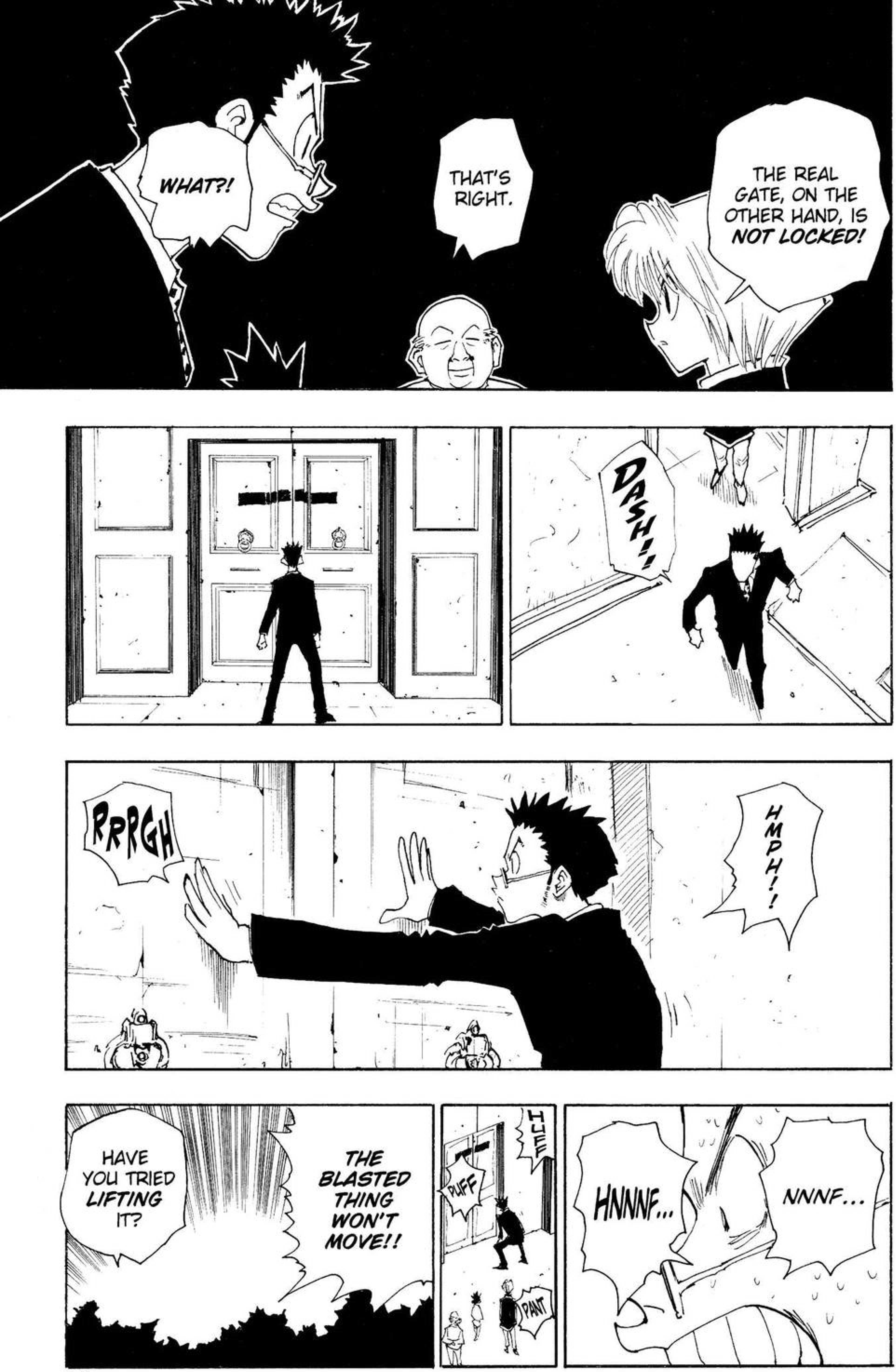

CREEEAK
!
LOOOM
?!
GRR...
YEEEEK!
HOLY...
WHOA!
CLATTER
THE MASTER HATES IT WHEN HE SNACKS BETWEEN MEALS.
DON'T BLAME THOSE EXTRA TONS ON ME, MIKE!
Shee...
WHAT... WAS THAT?!
Who cares! Run away! Very fast!

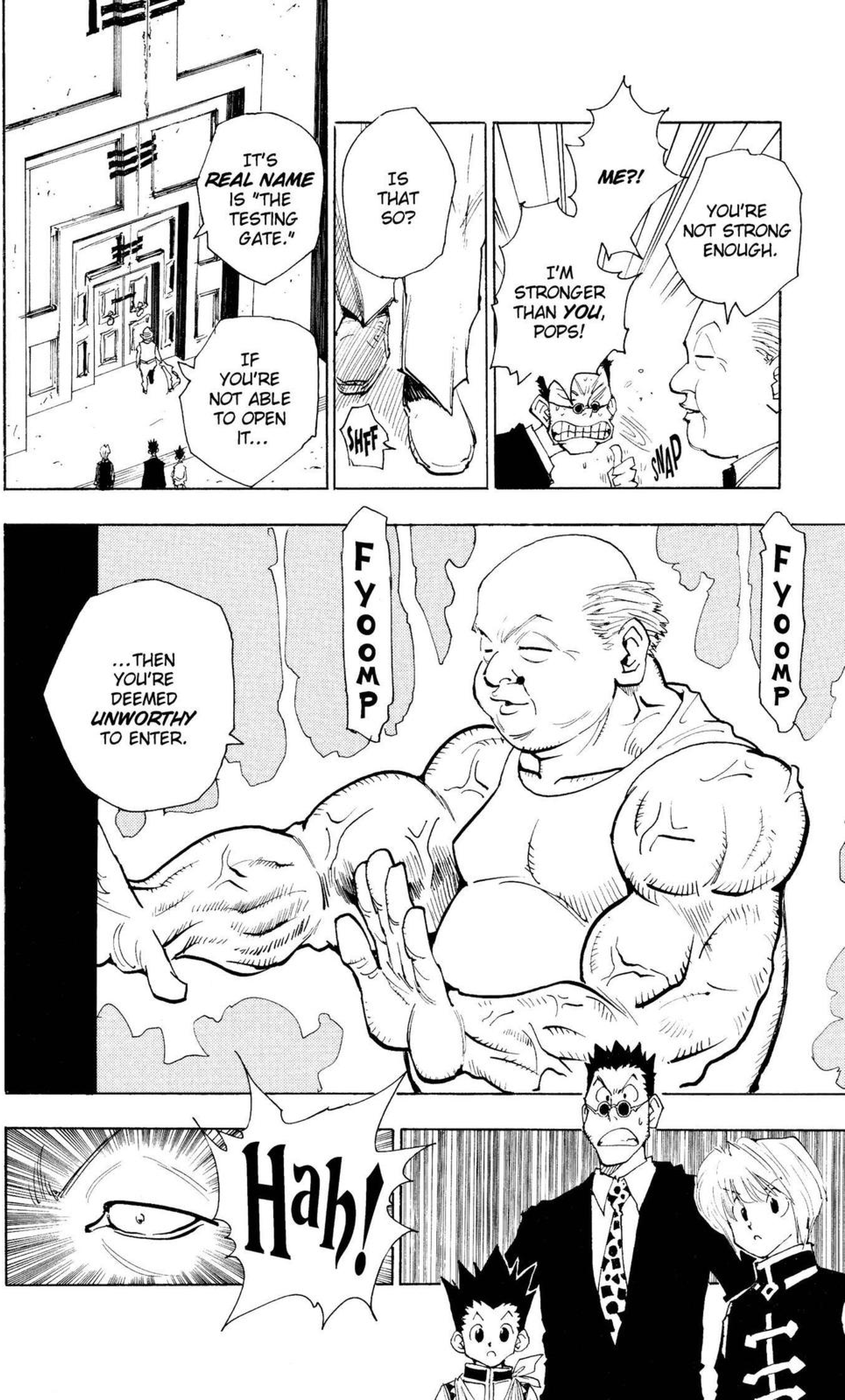

AS YOU JUST WITNESSED, FOLKS, ONCE INSIDE...
...YOU DON'T COME OUT! NOT ALL OF YOU, ANYWAY!
FINE! WHAT-EVER!
JUST GET US OUTTA HERE!!
HEY, YOU IDIOTS!! GET ON THE BUS!!
I THINK...
...WE'LL STAY HERE, THANKS.
YOU GO ON WITHOUT US.
WHAT DO YOU KNOW...
...ACTUAL FRIENDS OF YOUNG MASTER KILLUA.

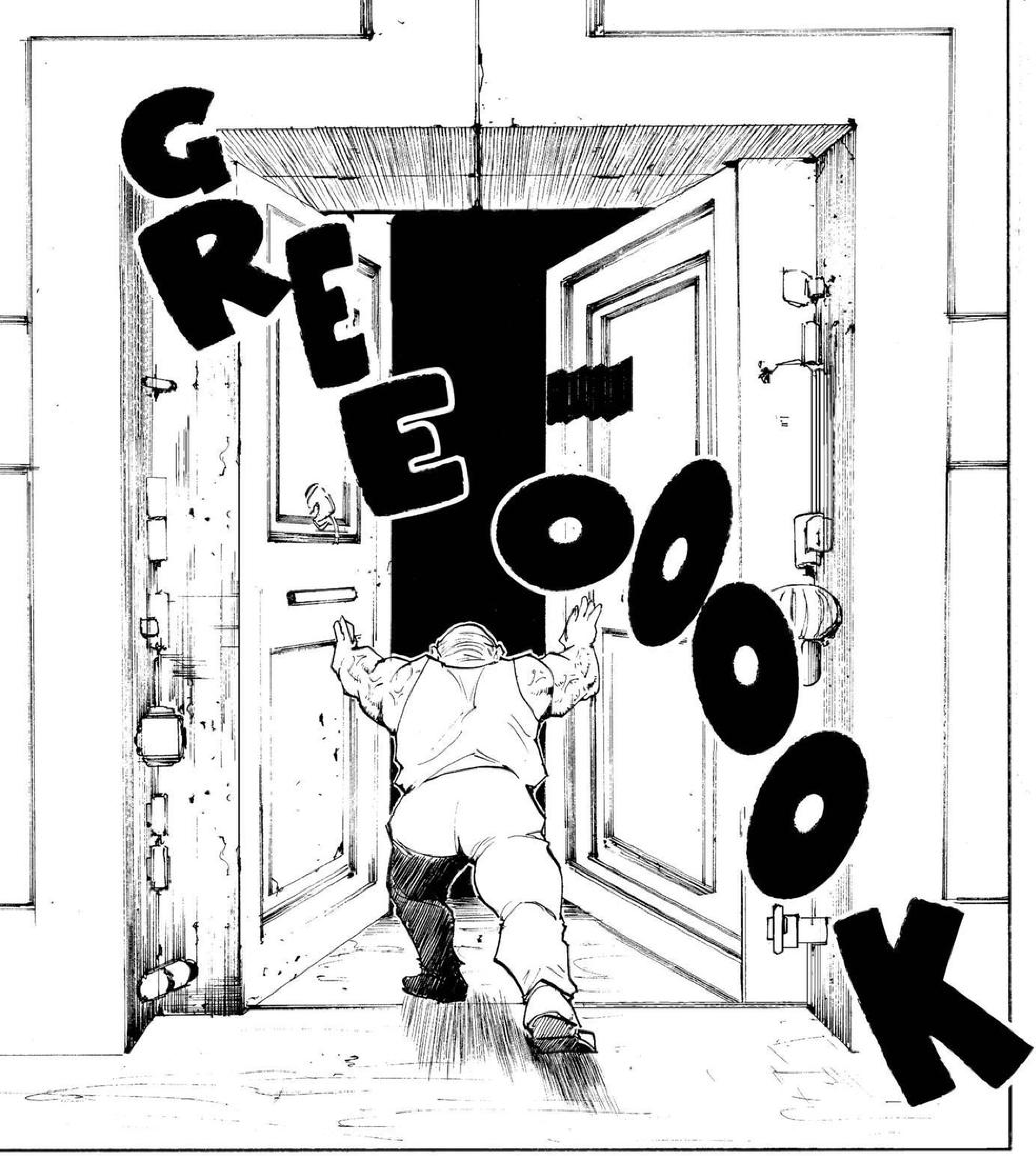

I'VE BEEN AT THIS POST 20 YEARS...
...AND YOU'RE THE FIRST VISITORS TO CLAIM FRIENDSHIP WITH ANY MEMBER OF THE ZOLDYCKS.
I'M NOT ONE TO DISPARAGE MY EMPLOYER...
...BUT THIS REALLY IS A VERY LONELY, DREARY PLACE.
GUYS LIKE THESE ARE ALWAYS COMING ALONG...
...BUT AS YOU SEE, THEY'RE NOT WARMLY RECEIVED.
SIIP
MURDER IS A GRIM TRADE.
BUT I THANK YOU FOR COMING. IT'S BEEN LOVELY.
No sweat...
UNFORTUNATELY, THIS IS AS FAR AS YOU GO.
THAT ENORMOUS ARM YOU SAW...
...BELONGS TO MIKE, THE ZOLDYCK'S GUARD DOG.
GRR...

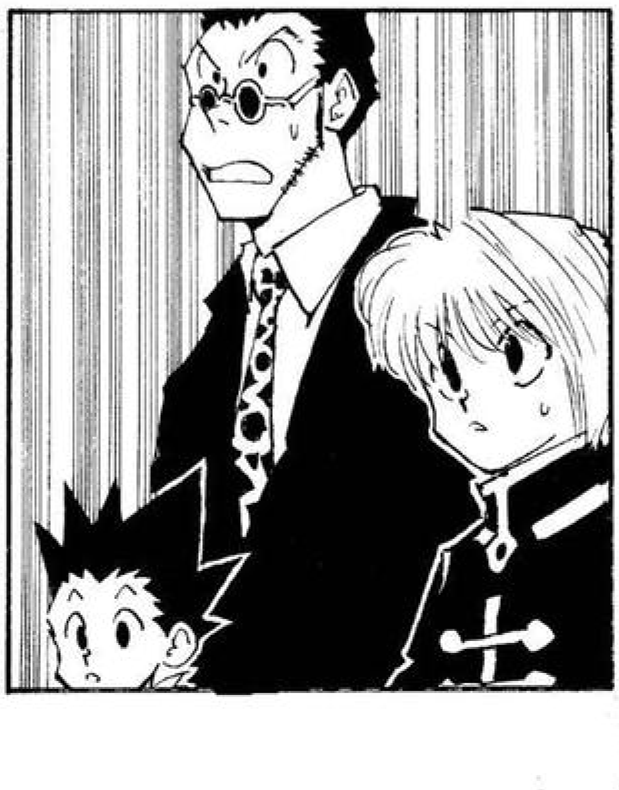

PIFF
HE ONLY OBEYS FAMILY MEMBERS, WHO'VE TRAINED HIM TO TAKE HIS JOB VERY SERIOUSLY.
HE HAS A STANDING ORDER, GIVEN TEN YEARS AGO, THAT HE ADHERES TO FAITHFULLY.
"CATCH AND KILL ALL INTRUDERS."
WELL, HE ALSO **EATS** THEM, WHICH IS A BIT BEYOND HIS MANDATE.
ANYWAY, HE EFFECTIVELY **BARS** ANYONE FROM GOING IN THERE.
HA HA
I DON'T IMAGINE THE YOUNG MASTER WOULD **APPRECIATE** YOU BEING STRIPPED DOWN TO **SKELETONS!**
SO HOW DO **YOU** DEAL WITH MIKE?
EH?
YOU HAVE A KEY TO THE GATE.
WHY HAVE IT, UNLESS YOU DO GO **INSIDE** ON OCCASION?
...
GOOD POINT.

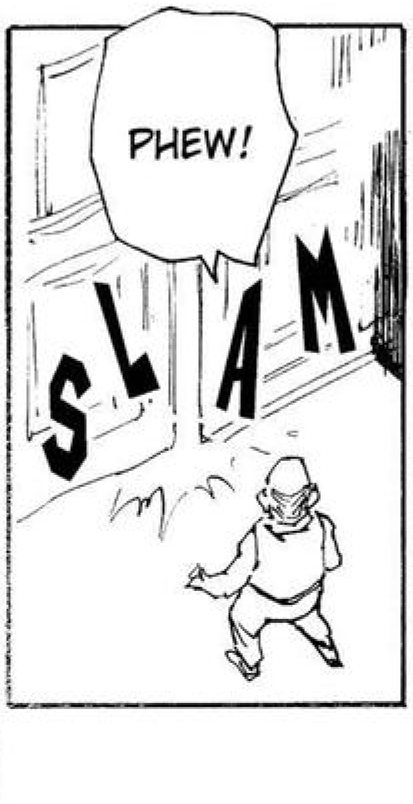

?
BUT YOU'RE ONLY **HALF RIGHT** THERE.
I DO GO INSIDE, BUT I **DON'T** USE THIS **KEY**.
Y'SEE, THIS IS JUST FOR **INTRUDERS**.
?
MOST ARE SO ARROGANTLY **PREDICTABLE**, SWAGGERING RIGHT UP AND MAKING DEMANDS.
AND WHEN THEY SEE THEY CAN'T **OPEN** THE GATE, THEY TRY TO **BREAK IT DOWN**. IT'S A REAL PAIN.
SO WE INSTALLED A BOGUS "SERVICE DOOR" NEXT TO THE GATE.
THE INTRUDERS "GET" THE KEY FROM ME...
...AND MIKE DOES THE REST.
...A BOGUS "SERVICE DOOR"...
I SEE...
AS YOU'VE NO DOUBT REALIZED, I'M **NOT** A GATEKEEPER.
TRUTH IS, I'M JUST A **GLORIFIED JANITOR** WHO CLEANS UP AFTER MIKE.


THE REAL GATE, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS ***NOT LOCKED!***
THAT'S RIGHT.
WHAT?!
DASH!!
HMPH!!
RRRGH
NNNF...
HNNNF...
HUFF
PUFF
PANT
THE BLASTED THING WON'T MOVE!!
HAVE YOU TRIED ***LIFTING*** IT?

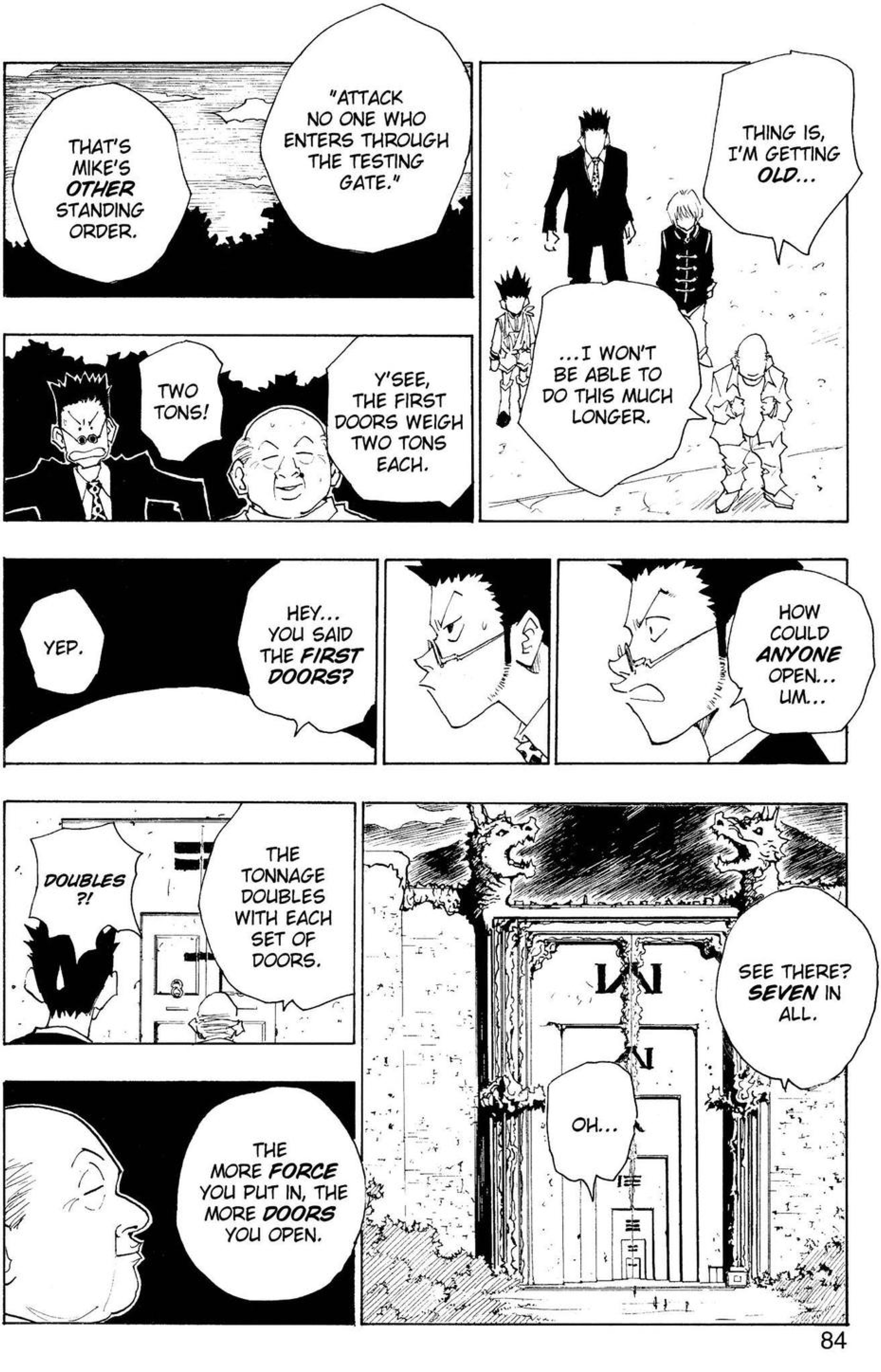

YOU'RE NOT STRONG ENOUGH.
ME?!
I'M STRONGER THAN YOU, POPS!
SNAP
IS THAT SO?
SHFF
IT'S REAL NAME IS "THE TESTING GATE."
IF YOU'RE NOT ABLE TO OPEN IT...
FYOOMP
FYOOMP
...THEN YOU'RE DEEMED UNWORTHY TO ENTER.
Hah!

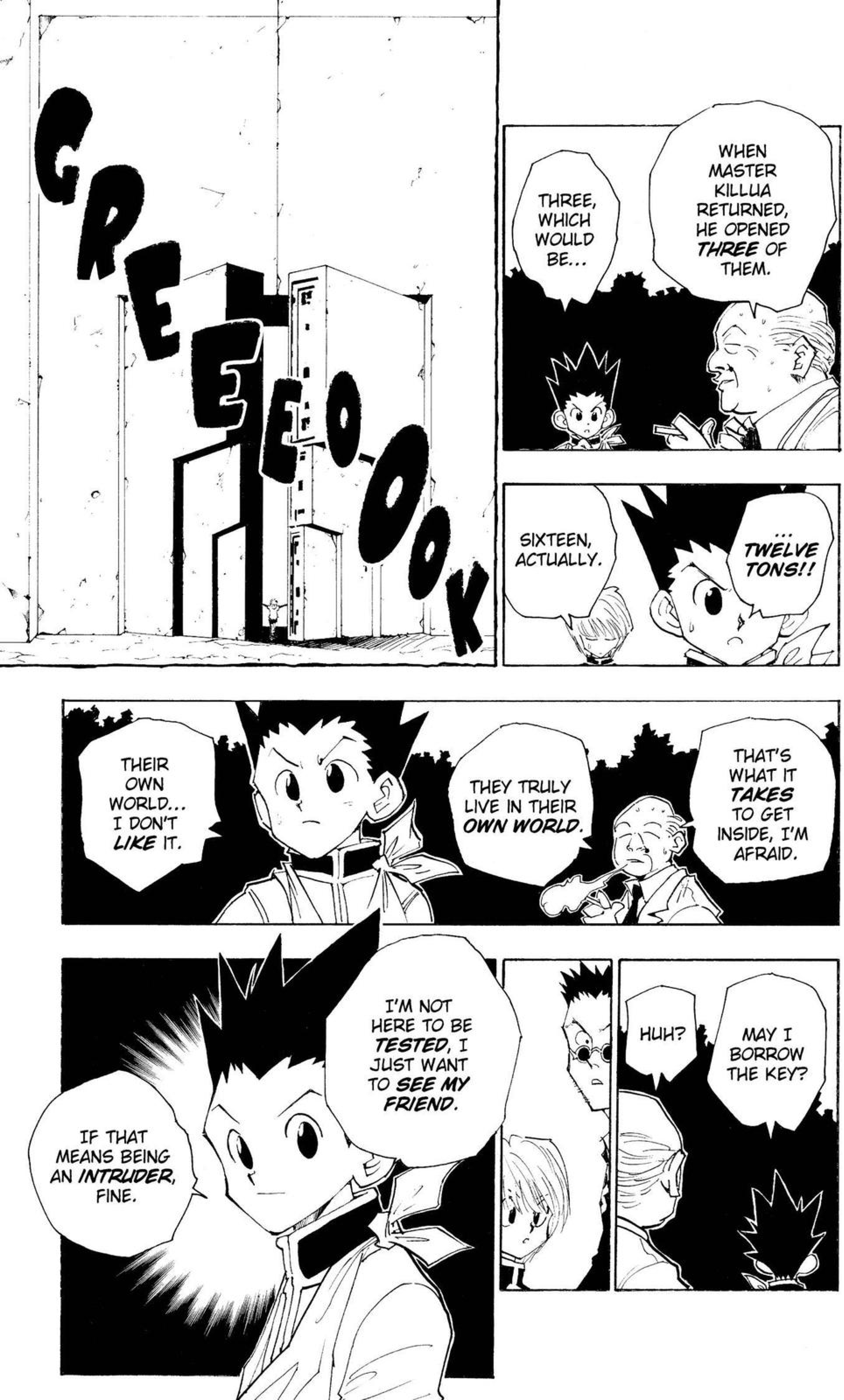

GREEEOOOOOK

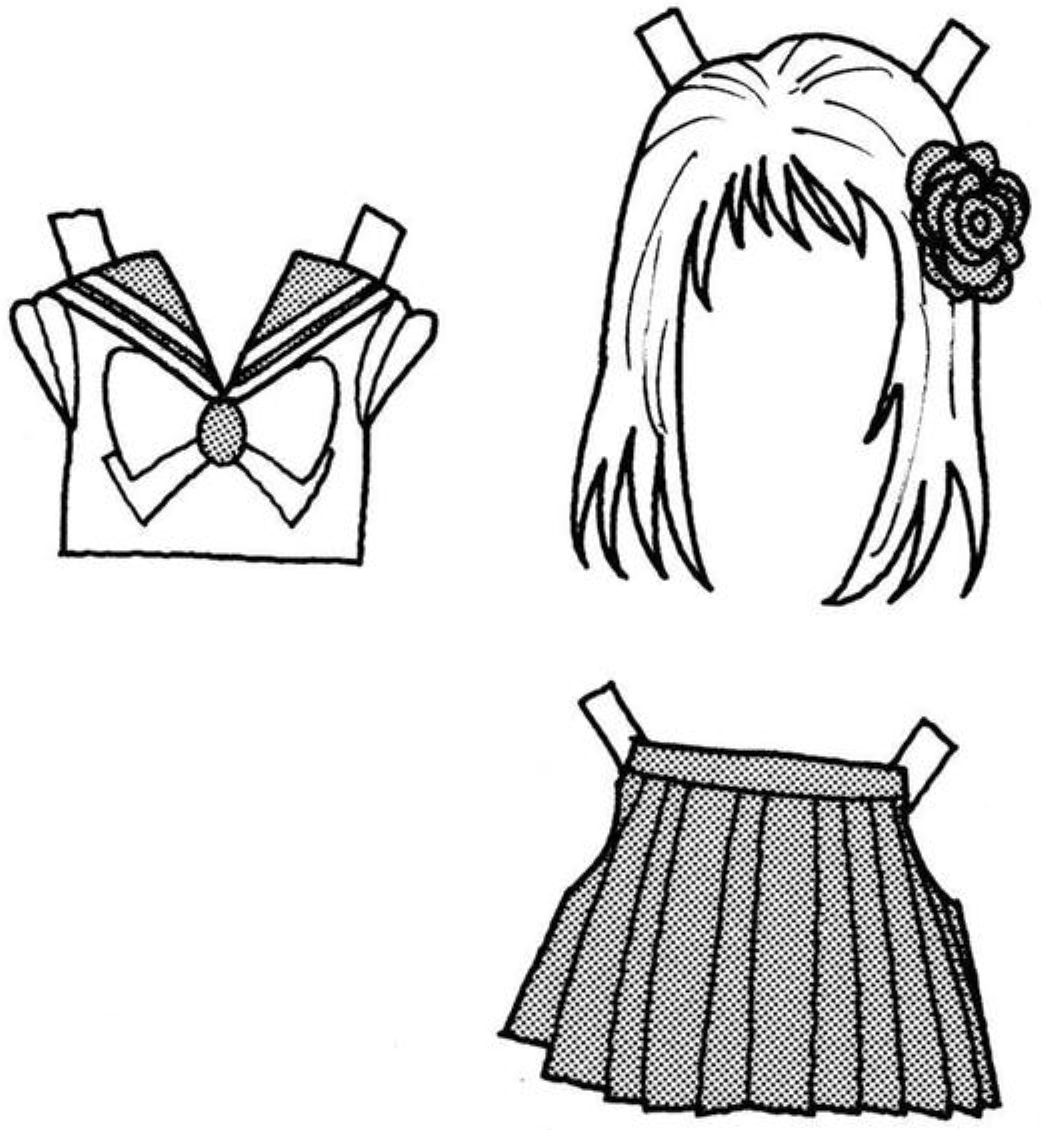


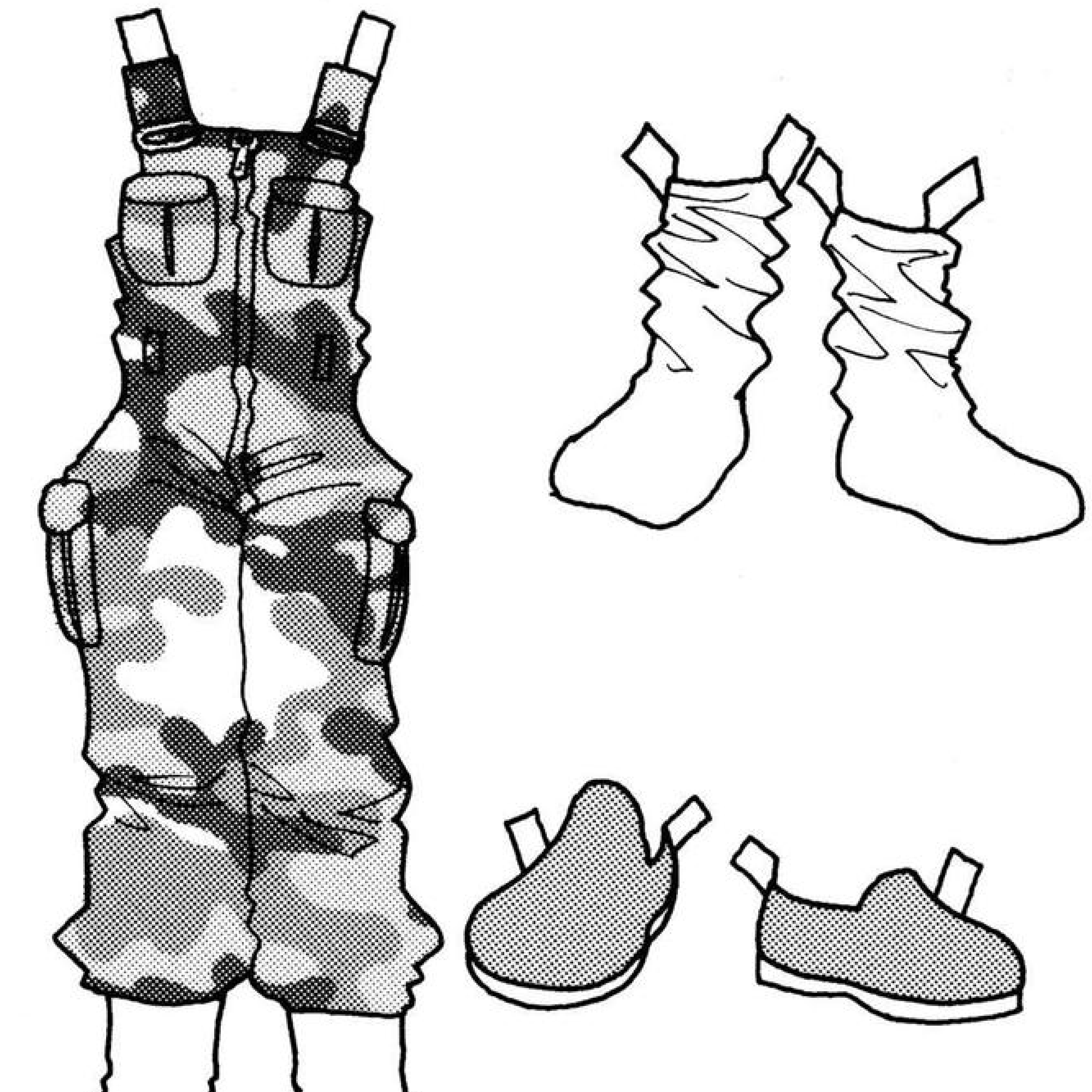

PHEW!
SLAM

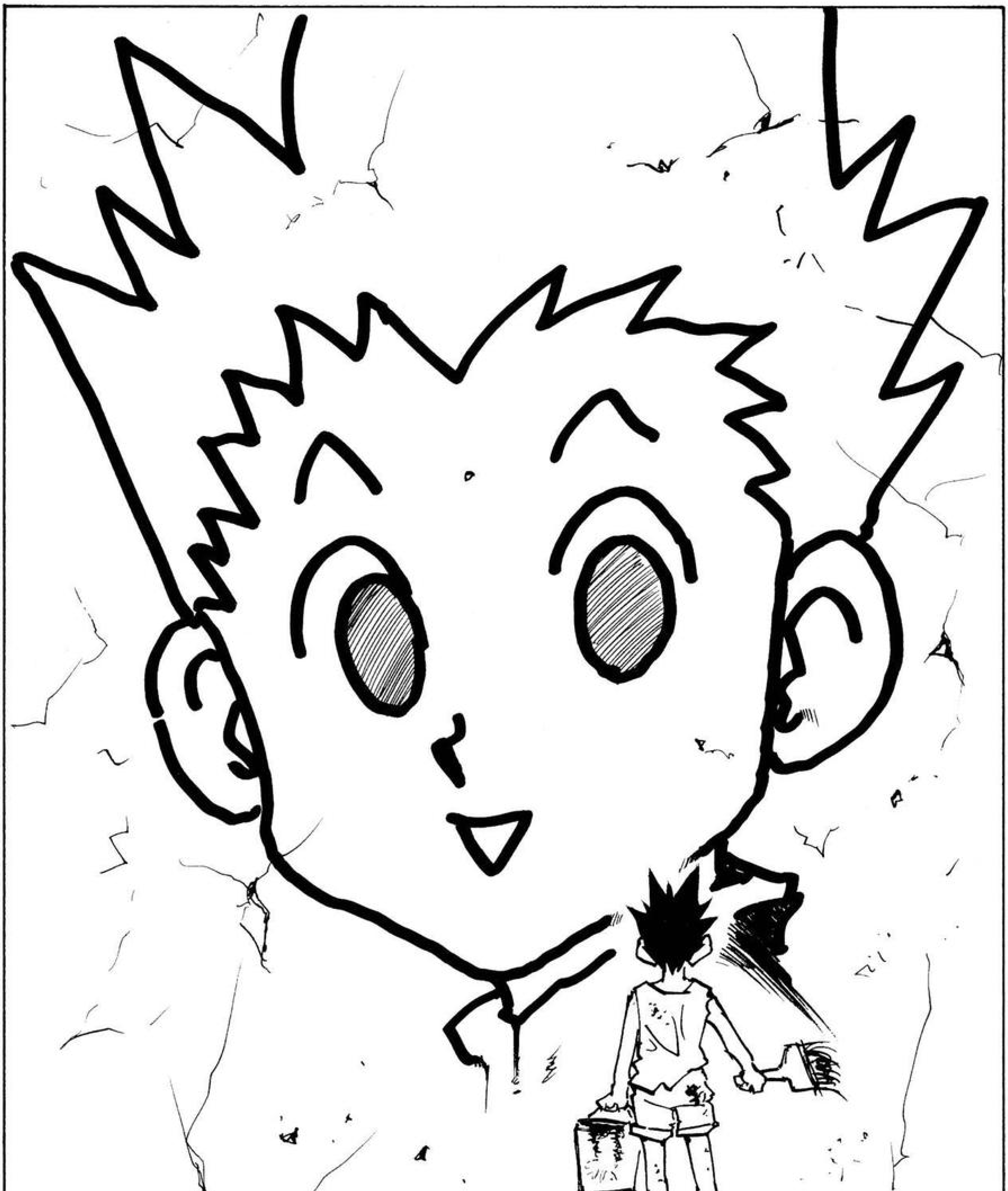
THE DOOR SHUTS AUTOMATICALLY...
...SO YOU HAVE TO MOVE FAST.


THING IS, I'M GETTING ***OLD***...
...I WON'T BE ABLE TO DO THIS MUCH LONGER.
"ATTACK NO ONE WHO ENTERS THROUGH THE TESTING GATE."
THAT'S MIKE'S ***OTHER*** STANDING ORDER.
Y'SEE, THE FIRST DOORS WEIGH TWO TONS EACH.
TWO TONS!
HOW COULD ***ANYONE*** OPEN... UM...
HEY... YOU SAID THE ***FIRST DOORS?***
YEP.
SEE THERE? ***SEVEN*** IN ALL.
OH...
THE TONNAGE DOUBLES WITH EACH SET OF DOORS.
DOUBLES?!
THE MORE ***FORCE*** YOU PUT IN, THE MORE ***DOORS*** YOU OPEN.


WHEN MASTER KILLUA RETURNED, HE OPENED *THREE* OF THEM.
THREE, WHICH WOULD BE…
… *TWELVE TONS!!*
SIXTEEN, ACTUALLY.
GREEEOOOK
THAT'S WHAT IT *TAKES* TO GET INSIDE, I'M AFRAID.
THEY TRULY LIVE IN THEIR *OWN WORLD*.
THEIR OWN WORLD… I DON'T *LIKE* IT.
MAY I BORROW THE KEY?
HUH?
I'M NOT HERE TO BE *TESTED*, I JUST WANT TO *SEE MY FRIEND*.
IF THAT MEANS BEING AN *INTRUDER*, FINE.

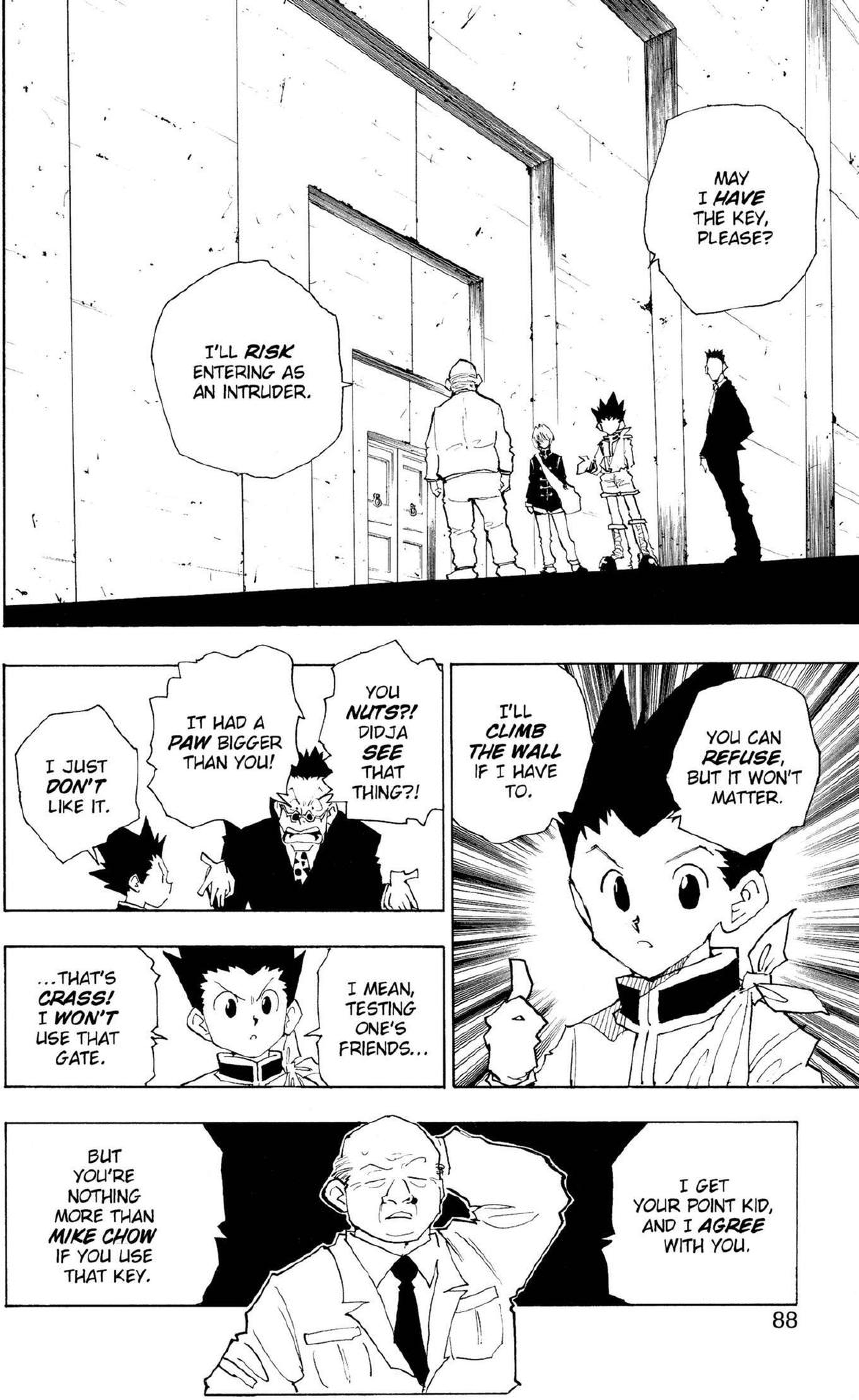


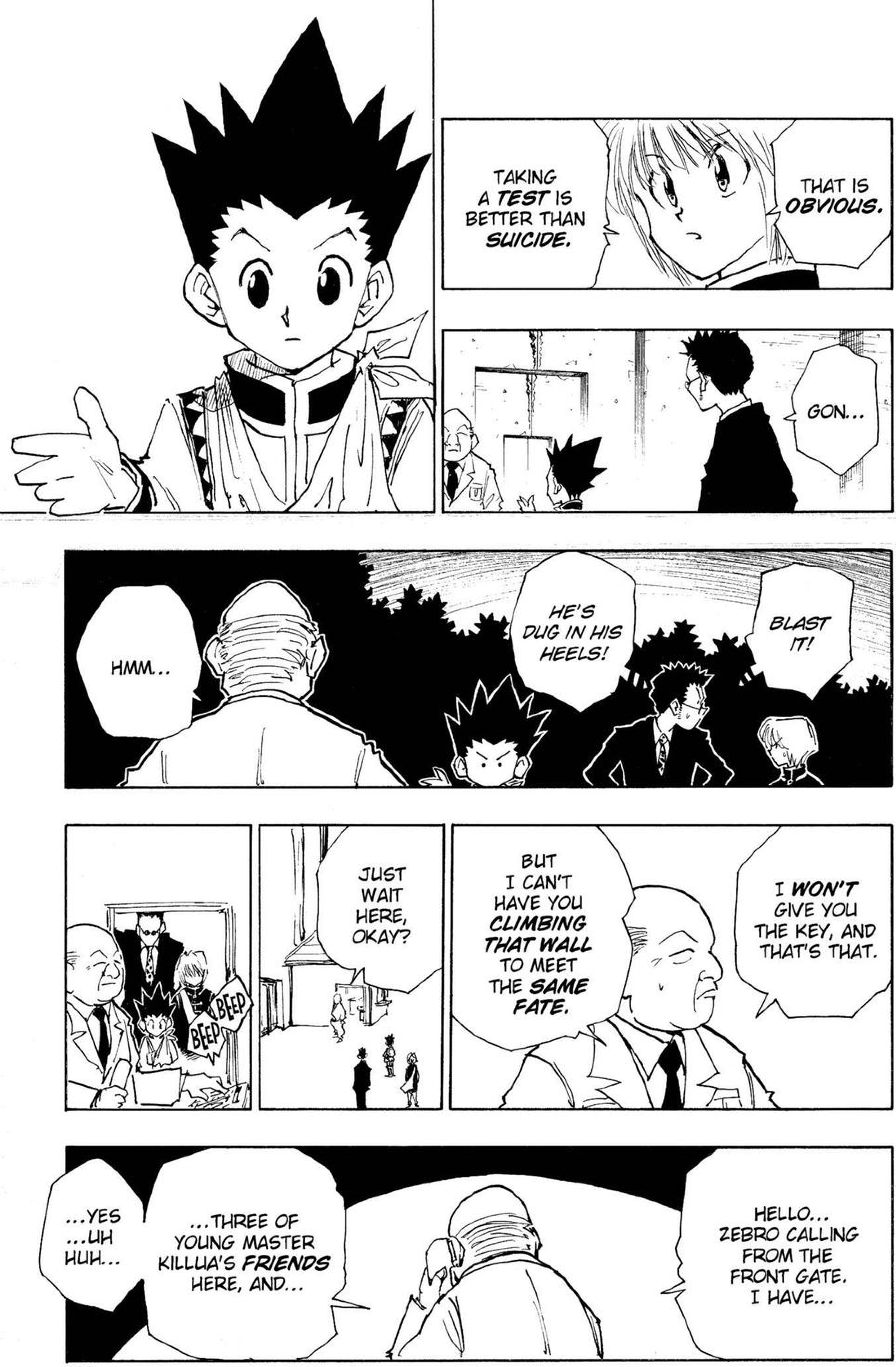


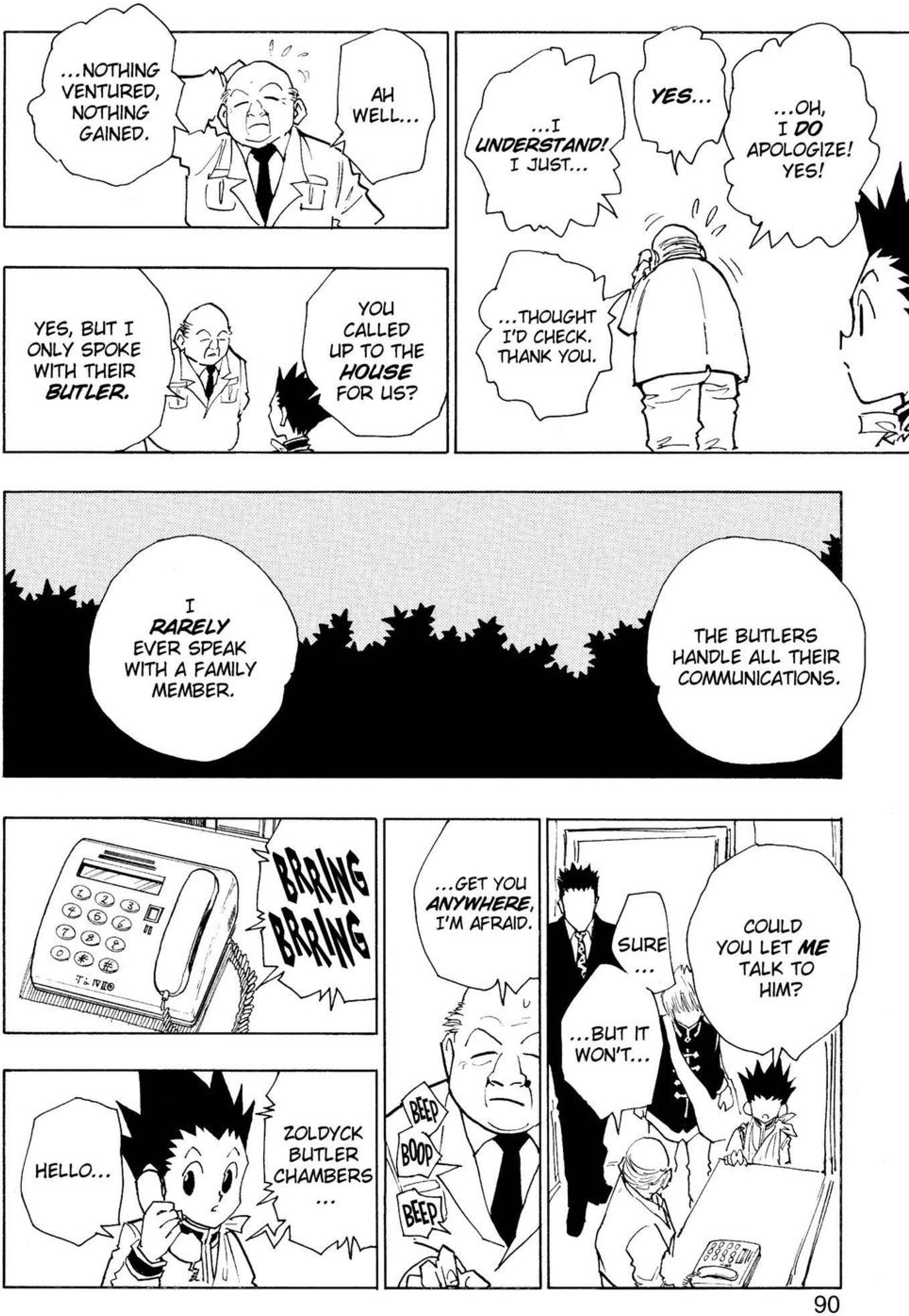


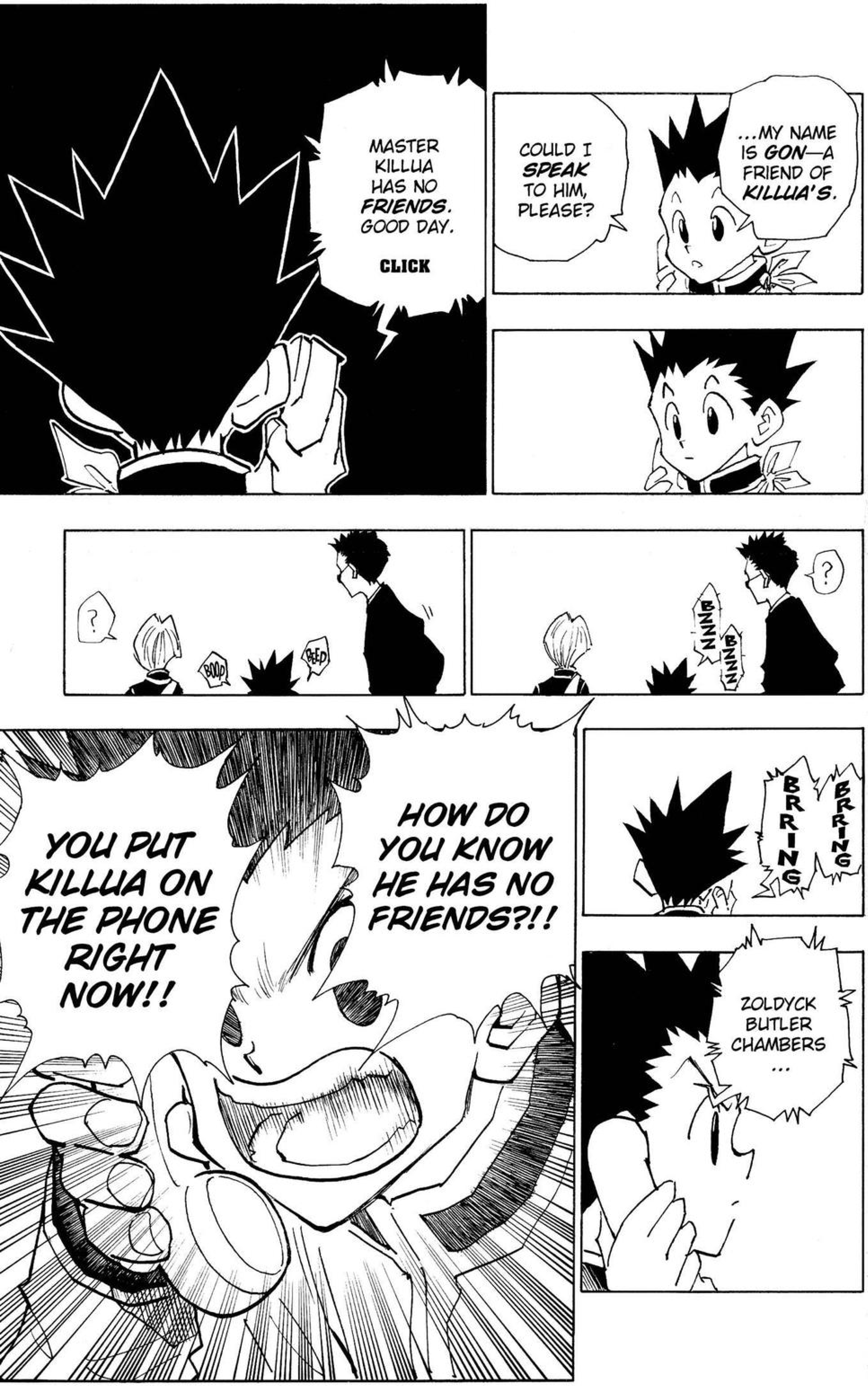
Chapter 40

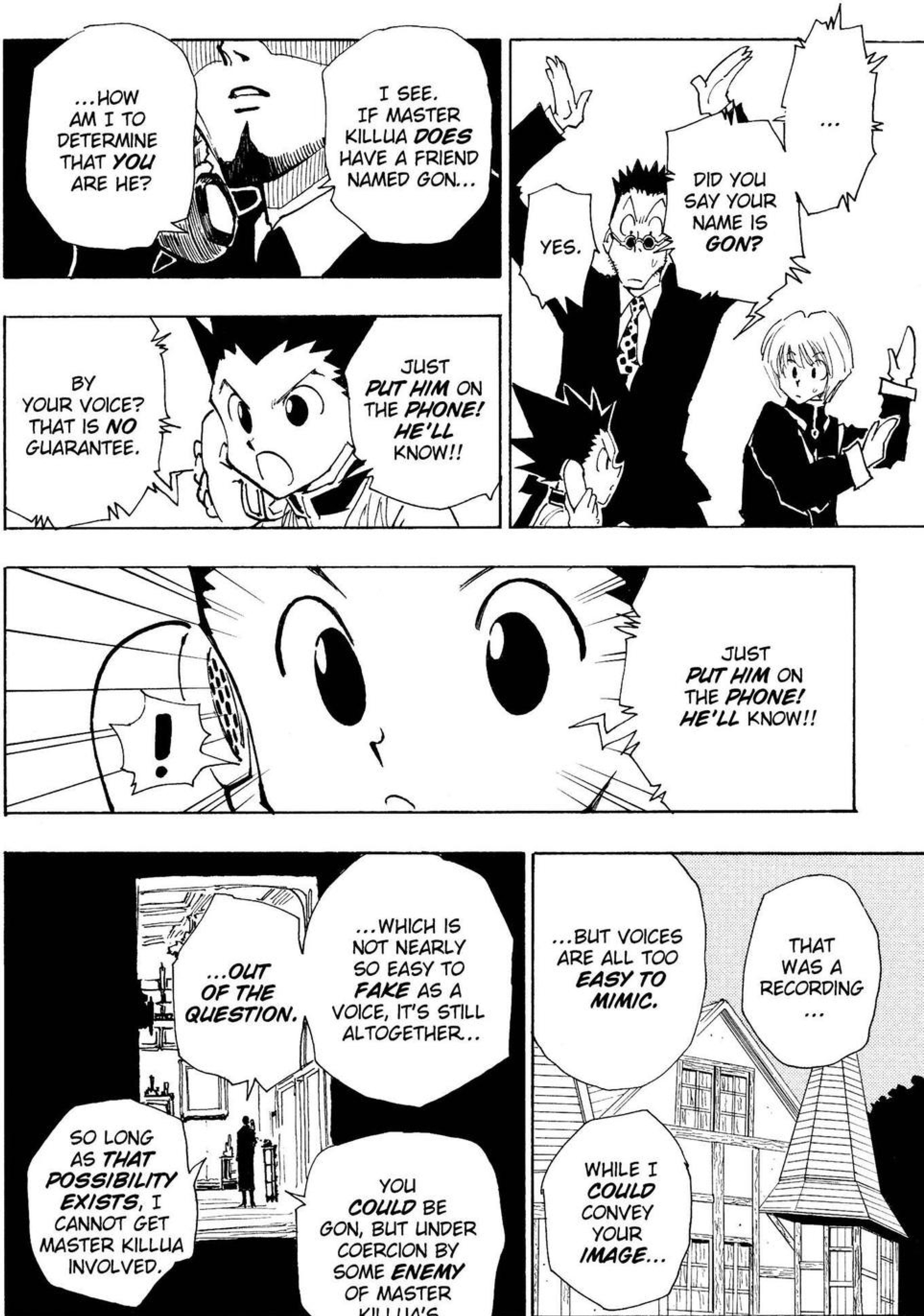
The Zoldycks, part 1

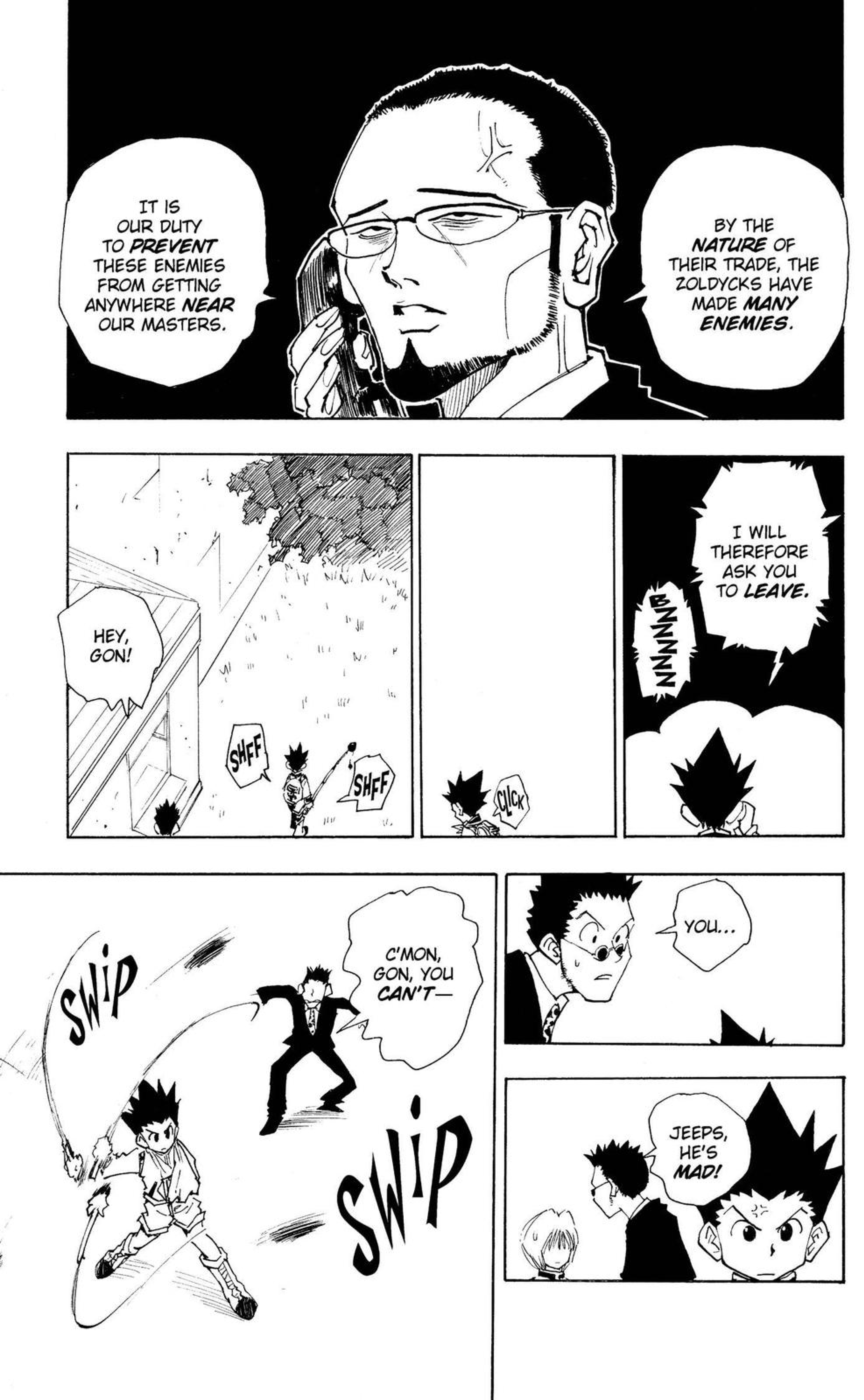

MAY I *HAVE* THE KEY, PLEASE?
I'LL *RISK* ENTERING AS AN INTRUDER.
YOU CAN *REFUSE*, BUT IT WON'T MATTER.
I'LL *CLIMB THE WALL* IF I HAVE TO.
YOU *NUTS?!* DIDJA *SEE* THAT THING?!
IT HAD A *PAW* BIGGER THAN YOU!
I JUST *DON'T* LIKE IT.
I MEAN, TESTING ONE'S FRIENDS...
...THAT'S *CRASS!* I *WON'T* USE THAT GATE.
I GET YOUR POINT KID, AND I *AGREE* WITH YOU.
BUT YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN *MIKE CHOW* IF YOU USE THAT KEY.

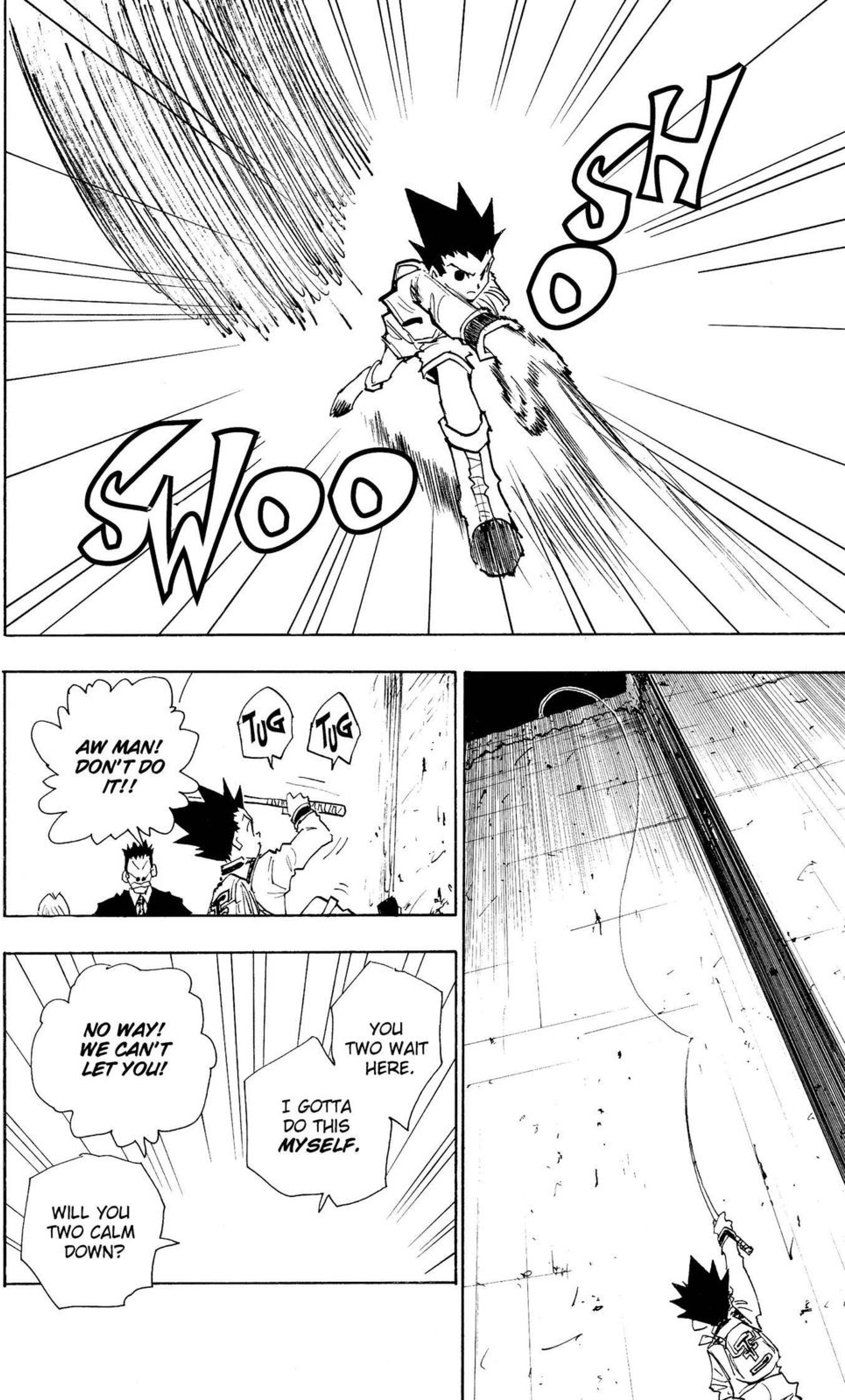

THAT IS OBVIOUS.
TAKING A TEST IS BETTER THAN SUICIDE.
GON...
BLAST IT!
HE'S DUG IN HIS HEELS!
HMM...
I WON'T GIVE YOU THE KEY, AND THAT'S THAT.
BUT I CAN'T HAVE YOU CLIMBING THAT WALL TO MEET THE SAME FATE.
JUST WAIT HERE, OKAY?
BEEP
BEEP
HELLO... ZEBRO CALLING FROM THE FRONT GATE. I HAVE...
...THREE OF YOUNG MASTER KILLUA'S FRIENDS HERE, AND...
...YES ...UH HUH...


...OH, I DO APOLOGIZE! YES!
YES...
...I UNDERSTAND! I JUST...
...THOUGHT I'D CHECK. THANK YOU.
AH WELL...
...NOTHING VENTURED, NOTHING GAINED.
YOU CALLED UP TO THE HOUSE FOR US?
YES, BUT I ONLY SPOKE WITH THEIR BUTLER.
THE BUTLERS HANDLE ALL THEIR COMMUNICATIONS.
I RARELY EVER SPEAK WITH A FAMILY MEMBER.
COULD YOU LET ME TALK TO HIM?
SURE...
...BUT IT WON'T...
...GET YOU ANYWHERE, I'M AFRAID.
BEEP
BOOP
BEEP
BRRING BRRING
ZOLDYCK BUTLER CHAMBERS...
HELLO...

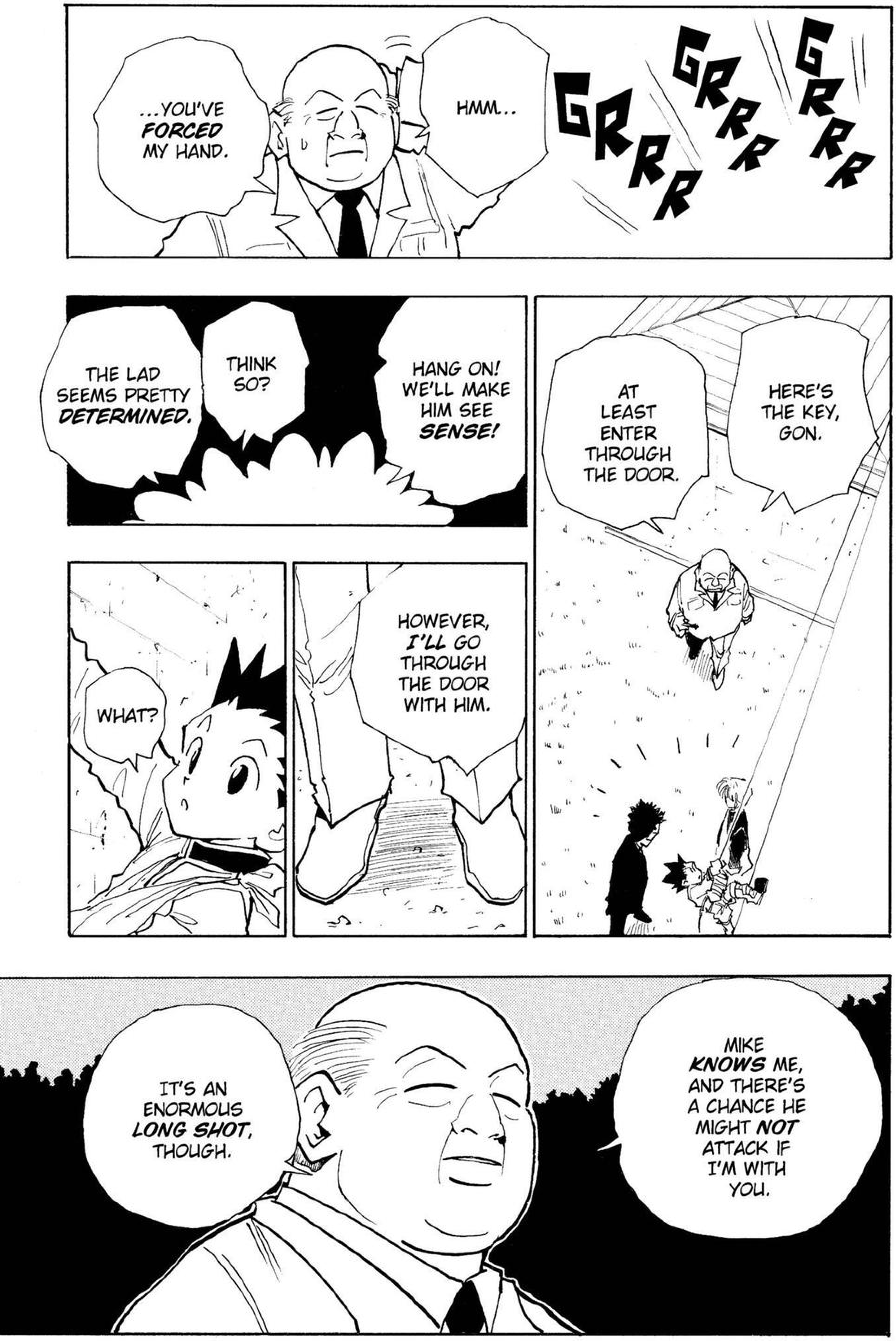

...MY NAME IS **GON**—A FRIEND OF **KILLUA'S.**
COULD I **SPEAK** TO HIM, PLEASE?
MASTER KILLUA HAS NO **FRIENDS.** GOOD DAY.
CLICK
?
BZZN
BZZN
?
BEEP
BOOP
BRRING
BRRING
ZOLDYCK BUTLER CHAMBERS ...
HOW DO YOU KNOW HE HAS NO FRIENDS?!!
YOU PUT KILLUA ON THE PHONE RIGHT NOW!!

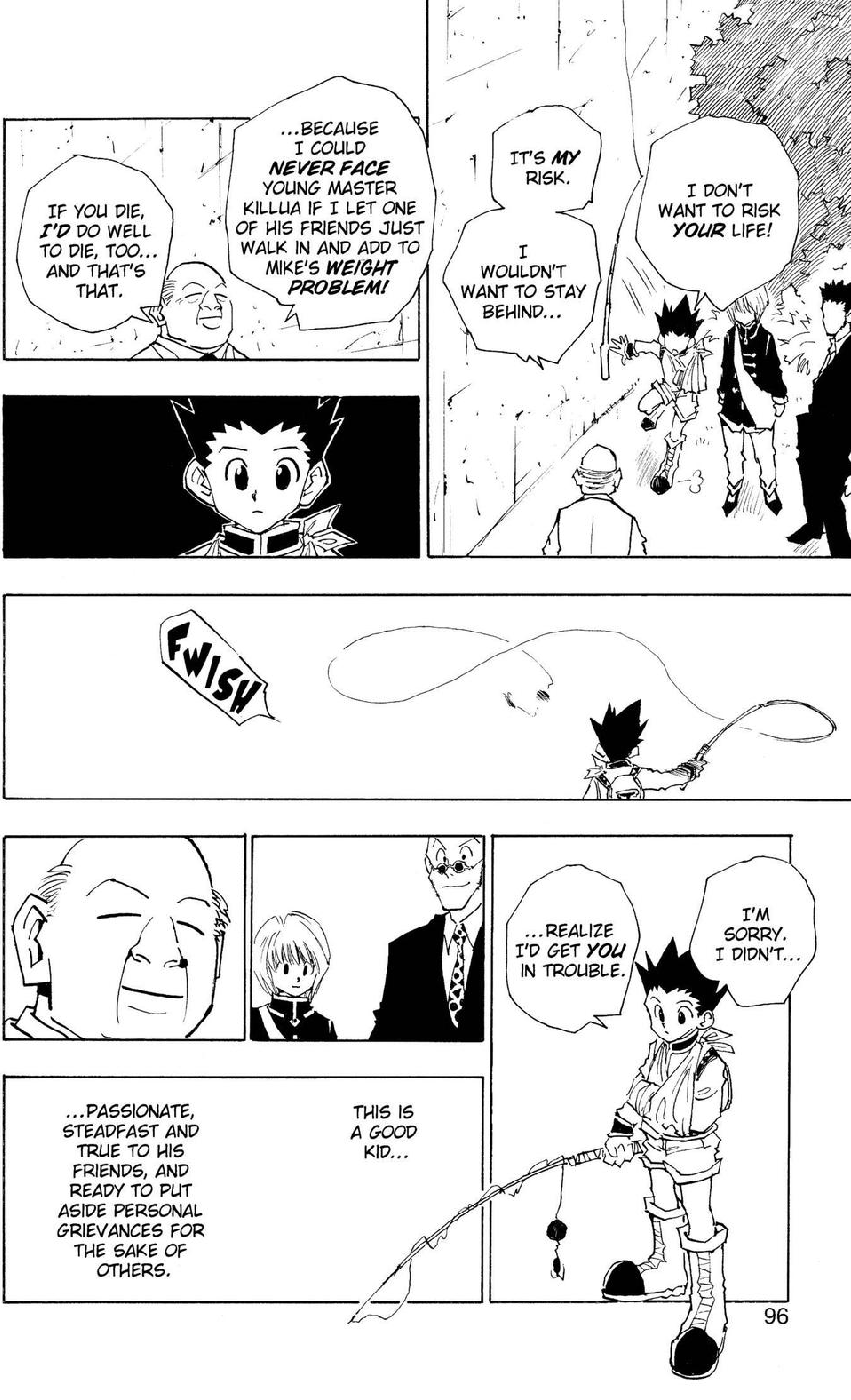

...
DID YOU SAY YOUR NAME IS GON?
YES.
I SEE. IF MASTER KILLUA DOES HAVE A FRIEND NAMED GON...
...HOW AM I TO DETERMINE THAT YOU ARE HE?
JUST PUT HIM ON THE PHONE! HE'LL KNOW!!
BY YOUR VOICE? THAT IS NO GUARANTEE.
JUST PUT HIM ON THE PHONE! HE'LL KNOW!!
!
THAT WAS A RECORDING...
...BUT VOICES ARE ALL TOO EASY TO MIMIC.
WHILE I COULD CONVEY YOUR IMAGE...
...WHICH IS NOT NEARLY SO EASY TO FAKE AS A VOICE, IT'S STILL ALTOGETHER..
...OUT OF THE QUESTION.
YOU COULD BE GON, BUT UNDER COERCION BY SOME ENEMY OF MASTER KILLUA'S.
SO LONG AS THAT POSSIBILITY EXISTS, I CANNOT GET MASTER KILLUA INVOLVED.


BY THE NATURE OF THEIR TRADE, THE ZOLDYCKS HAVE MADE MANY ENEMIES.
IT IS OUR DUTY TO PREVENT THESE ENEMIES FROM GETTING ANYWHERE NEAR OUR MASTERS.
I WILL THEREFORE ASK YOU TO LEAVE.
BNNNNNN
CLICK
SHFF
SHFF
HEY, GON!
YOU...
JEEPS, HE'S MAD!
C'MON, GON, YOU CAN'T—
SWIP
SWIP

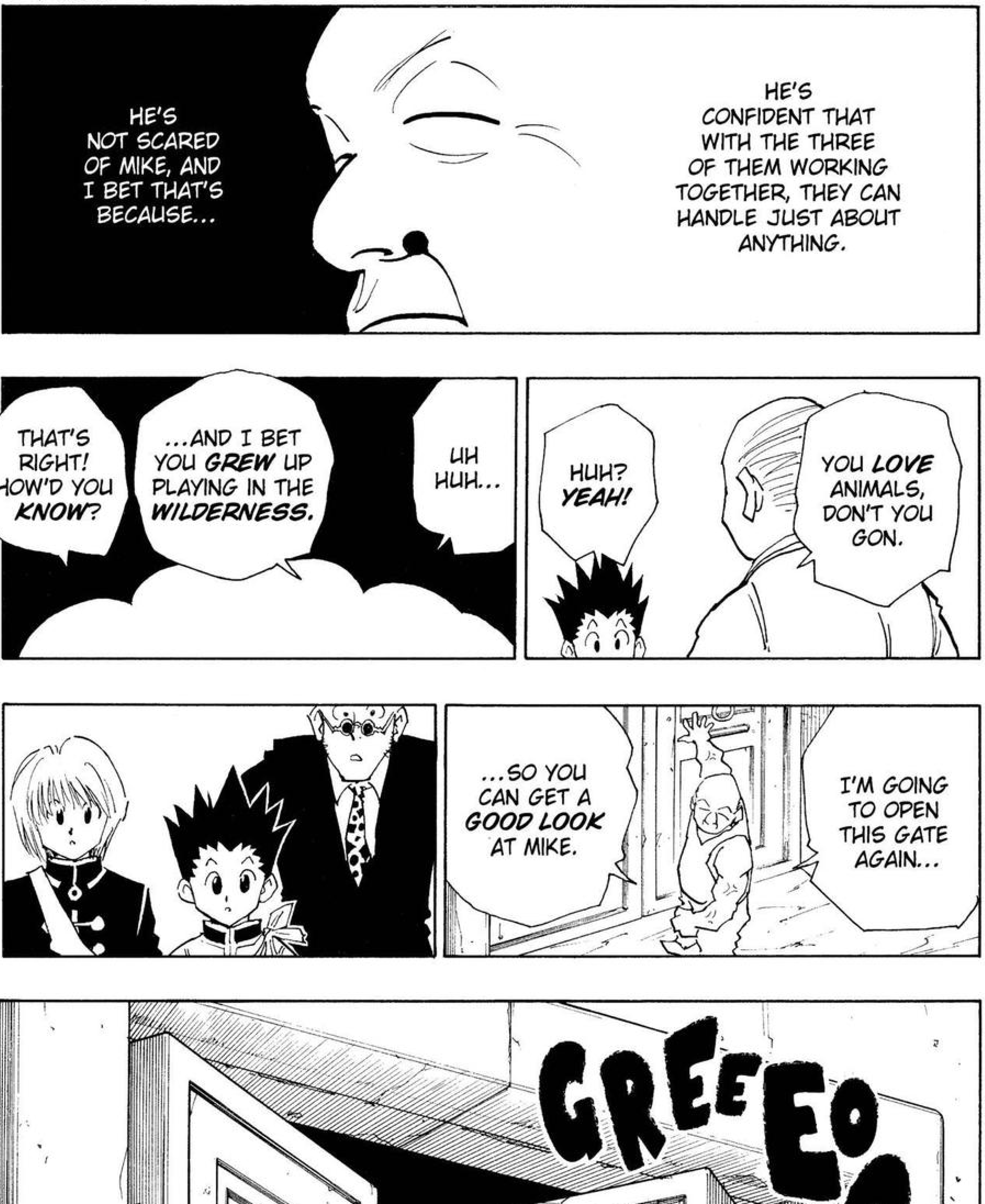

SWOOOSH
TUG
TUG
AW MAN! DON'T DO IT!!
YOU TWO WAIT HERE.
I GOTTA DO THIS *MYSELF*.
NO WAY! WE CAN'T LET YOU!
WILL YOU TWO CALM DOWN?

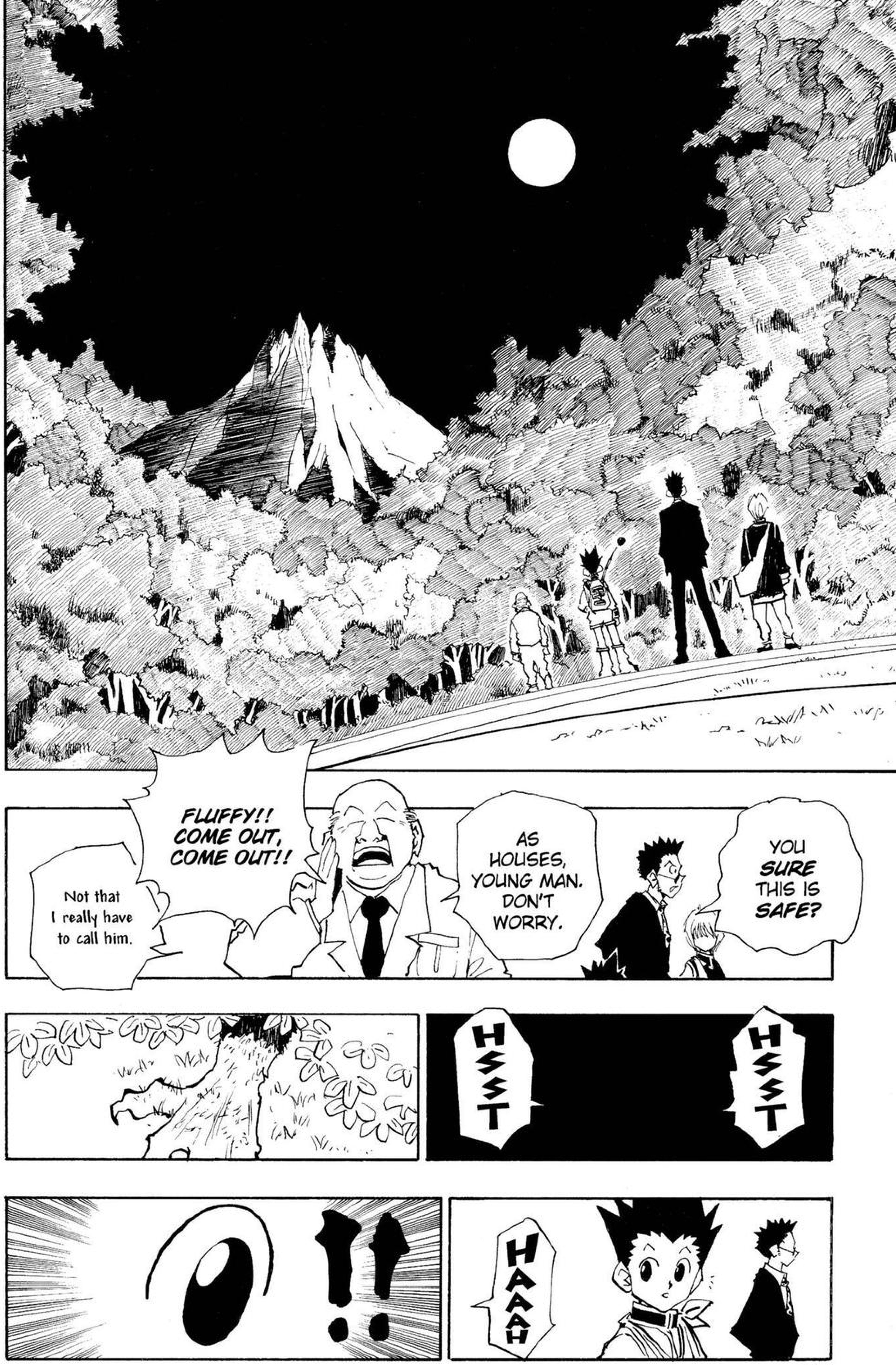
READ THIS WAY

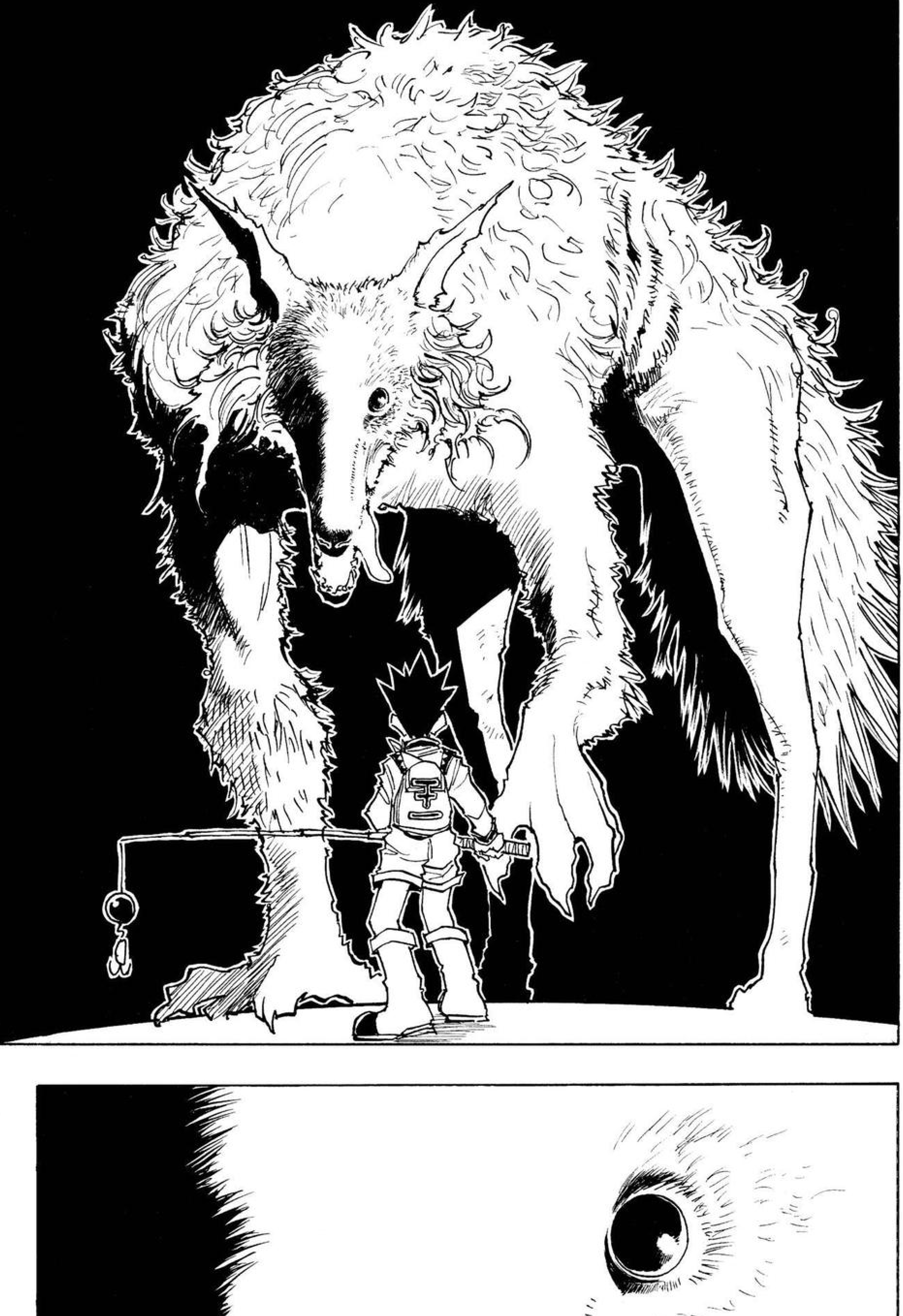

GRRR GRRR GRRR
HMM...
...YOU'VE *FORCED* MY HAND.
HERE'S THE KEY, GON.
AT LEAST ENTER THROUGH THE DOOR.
HANG ON! WE'LL MAKE HIM SEE *SENSE!*
THINK SO?
THE LAD SEEMS PRETTY *DETERMINED.*
HOWEVER, *I'LL* GO THROUGH THE DOOR WITH HIM.
WHAT?
MIKE *KNOWS* ME, AND THERE'S A CHANCE HE MIGHT *NOT* ATTACK IF I'M WITH YOU.
IT'S AN ENORMOUS *LONG SHOT*, THOUGH.

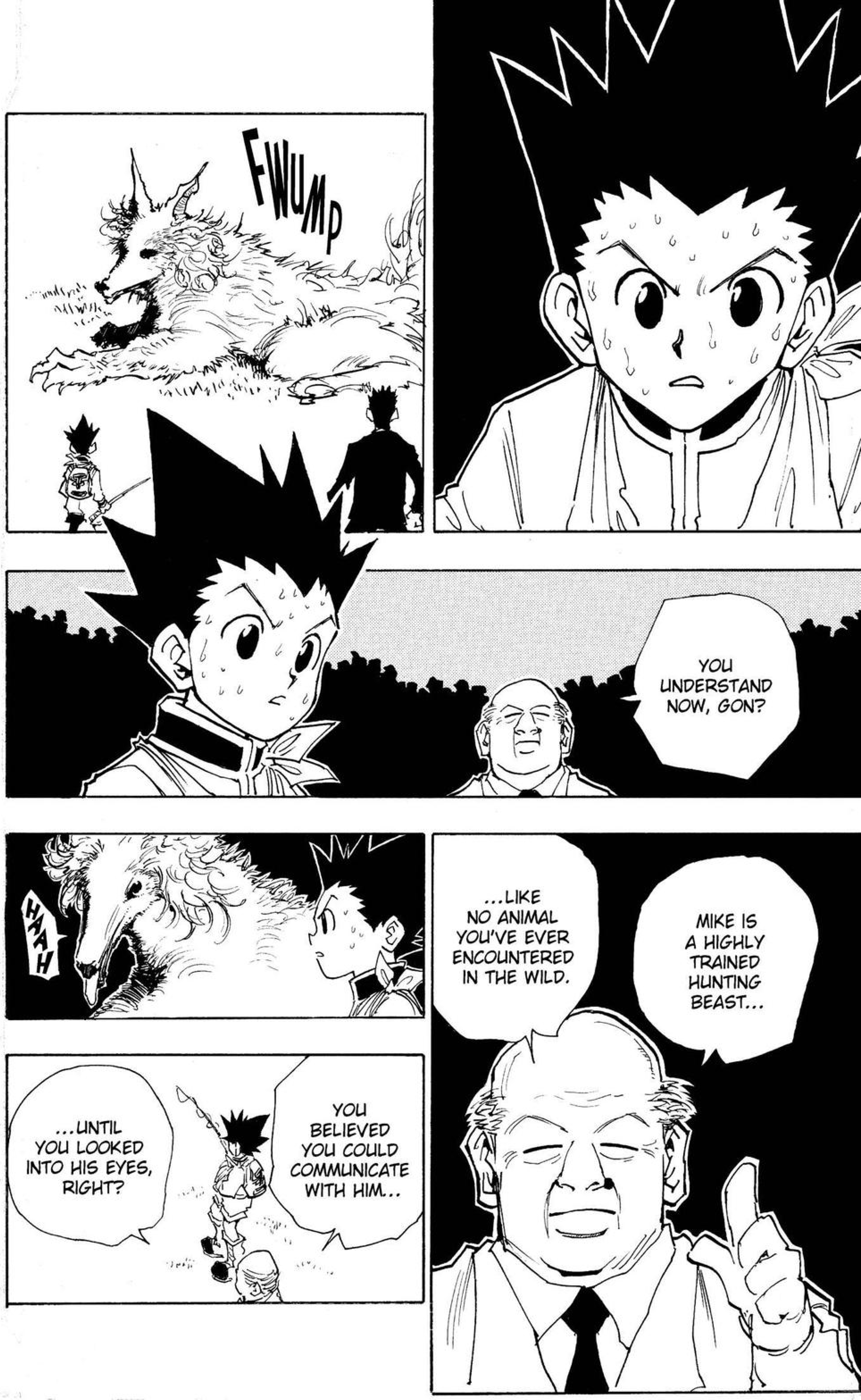

I DON'T WANT TO RISK **YOUR** LIFE!
IT'S **MY** RISK.
I WOULDN'T WANT TO STAY BEHIND...
IF YOU DIE, **I'D** DO WELL TO DIE, TOO... AND THAT'S THAT.
...BECAUSE I COULD **NEVER FACE** YOUNG MASTER KILLUA IF I LET ONE OF HIS FRIENDS JUST WALK IN AND ADD TO MIKE'S **WEIGHT PROBLEM!**
FWISH
I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T...
...REALIZE I'D GET **YOU** IN TROUBLE.
THIS IS A GOOD KID...
...PASSIONATE, STEADFAST AND TRUE TO HIS FRIENDS, AND READY TO PUT ASIDE PERSONAL GRIEVANCES FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS.

READ THIS WAY

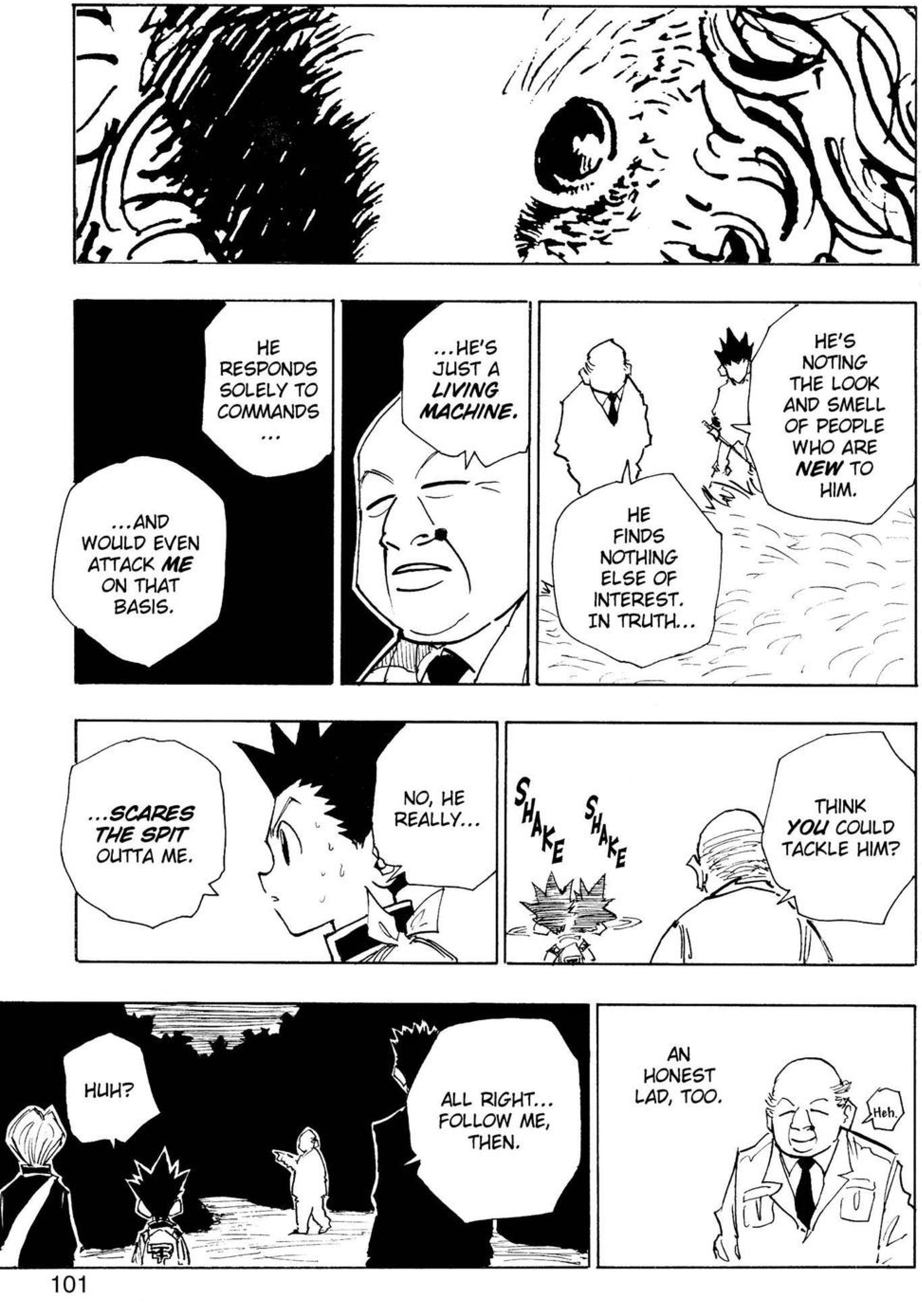

HE'S CONFIDENT THAT WITH THE THREE OF THEM WORKING TOGETHER, THEY CAN HANDLE JUST ABOUT ANYTHING.
HE'S NOT SCARED OF MIKE, AND I BET THAT'S BECAUSE...
YOU *LOVE* ANIMALS, DON'T YOU GON.
HUH? *YEAH!*
UH HUH...
...AND I BET YOU *GREW* UP PLAYING IN THE *WILDERNESS.*
THAT'S RIGHT! HOW'D YOU *KNOW?*
I'M GOING TO OPEN THIS GATE AGAIN...
...SO YOU CAN GET A *GOOD LOOK* AT MIKE.
GREEEOOOK

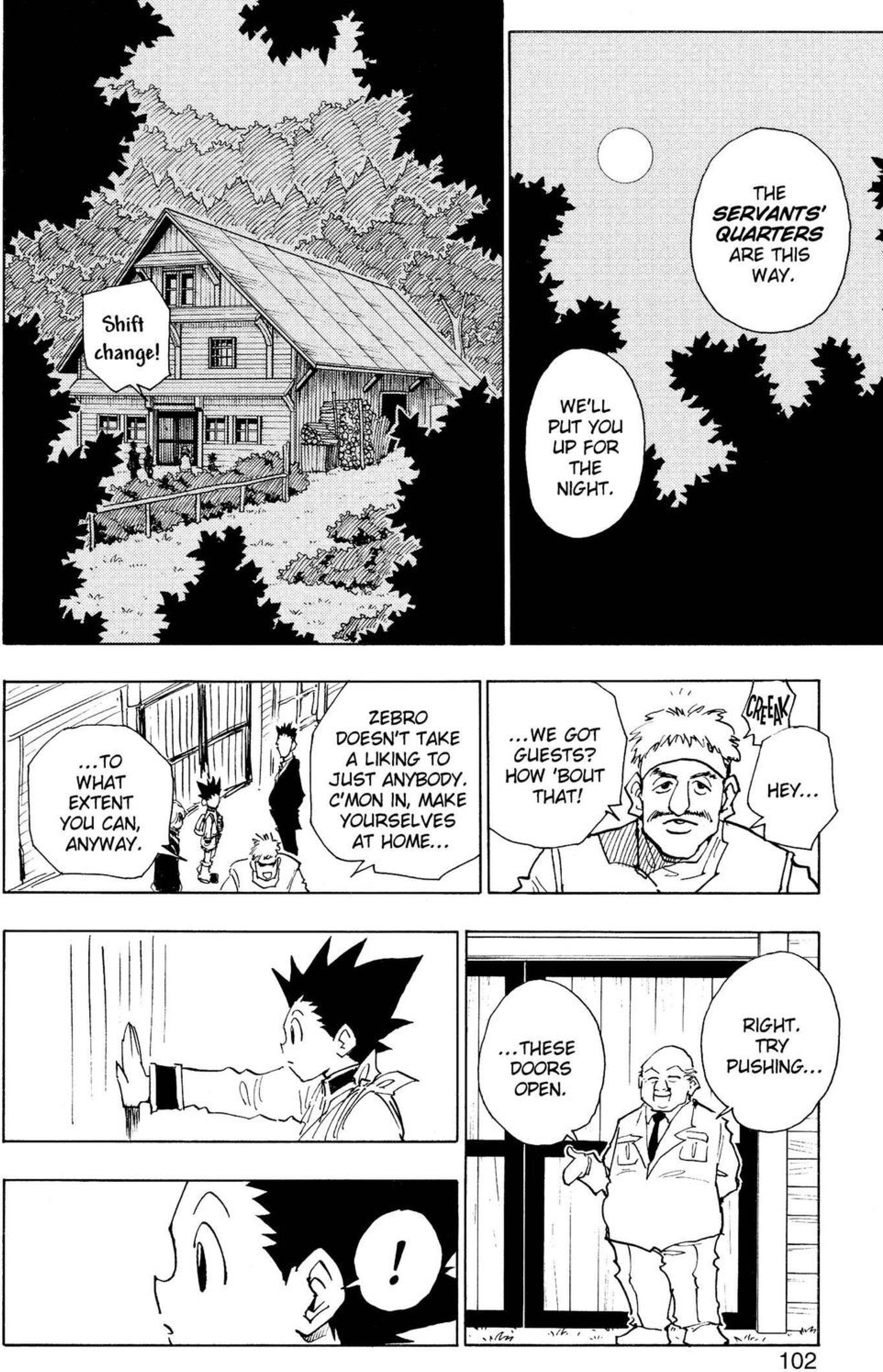

YOU SURE THIS IS SAFE?
AS HOUSES, YOUNG MAN. DON'T WORRY.
FLUFFY!! COME OUT, COME OUT!!
Not that I really have to call him.
HSST
HSST
HAAAH
!!



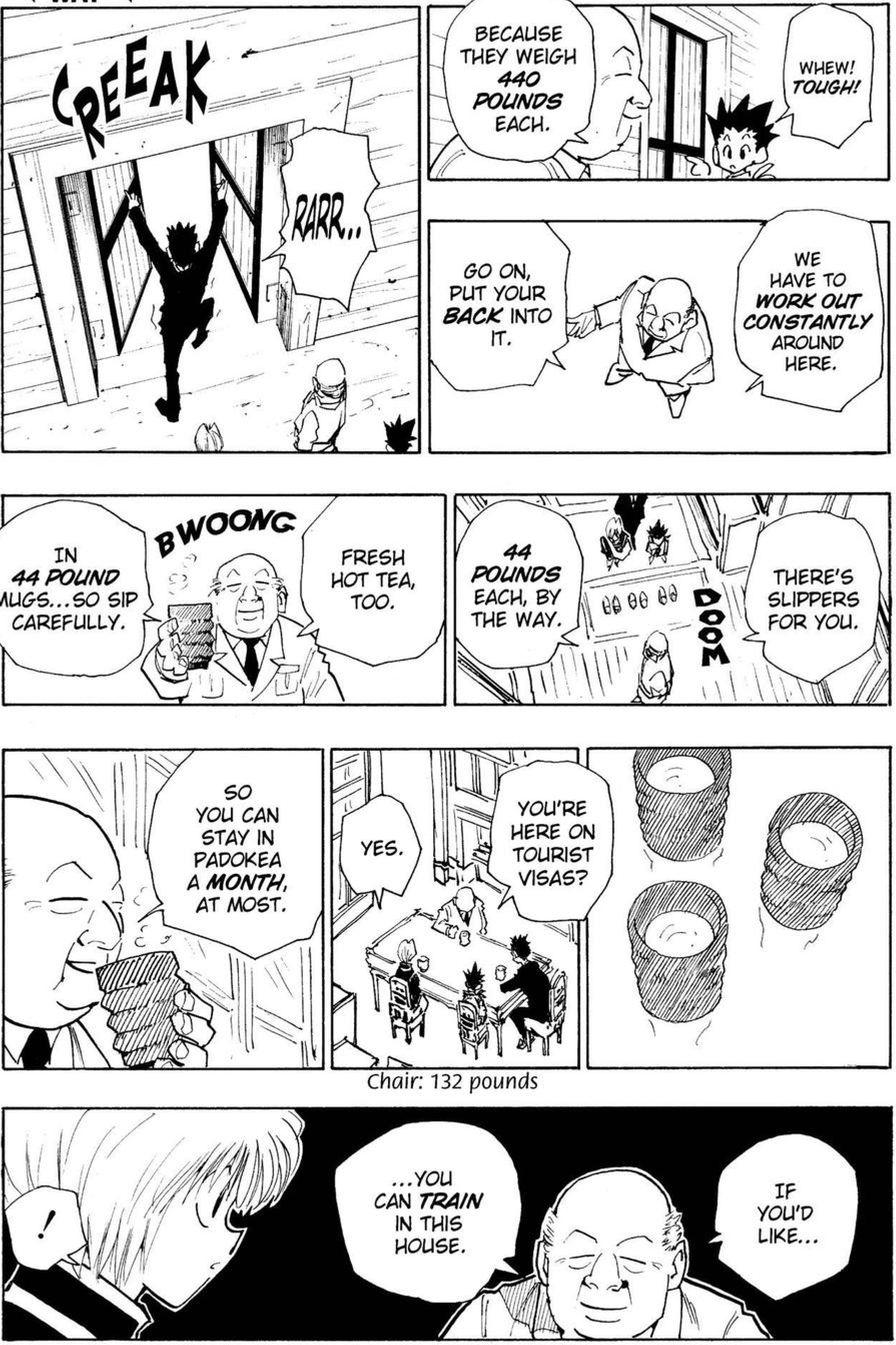

FWUMP
YOU UNDERSTAND NOW, GON?
MIKE IS A HIGHLY TRAINED HUNTING BEAST...
...LIKE NO ANIMAL YOU'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED IN THE WILD.
HAAH
YOU BELIEVED YOU COULD COMMUNICATE WITH HIM...
...UNTIL YOU LOOKED INTO HIS EYES, RIGHT?

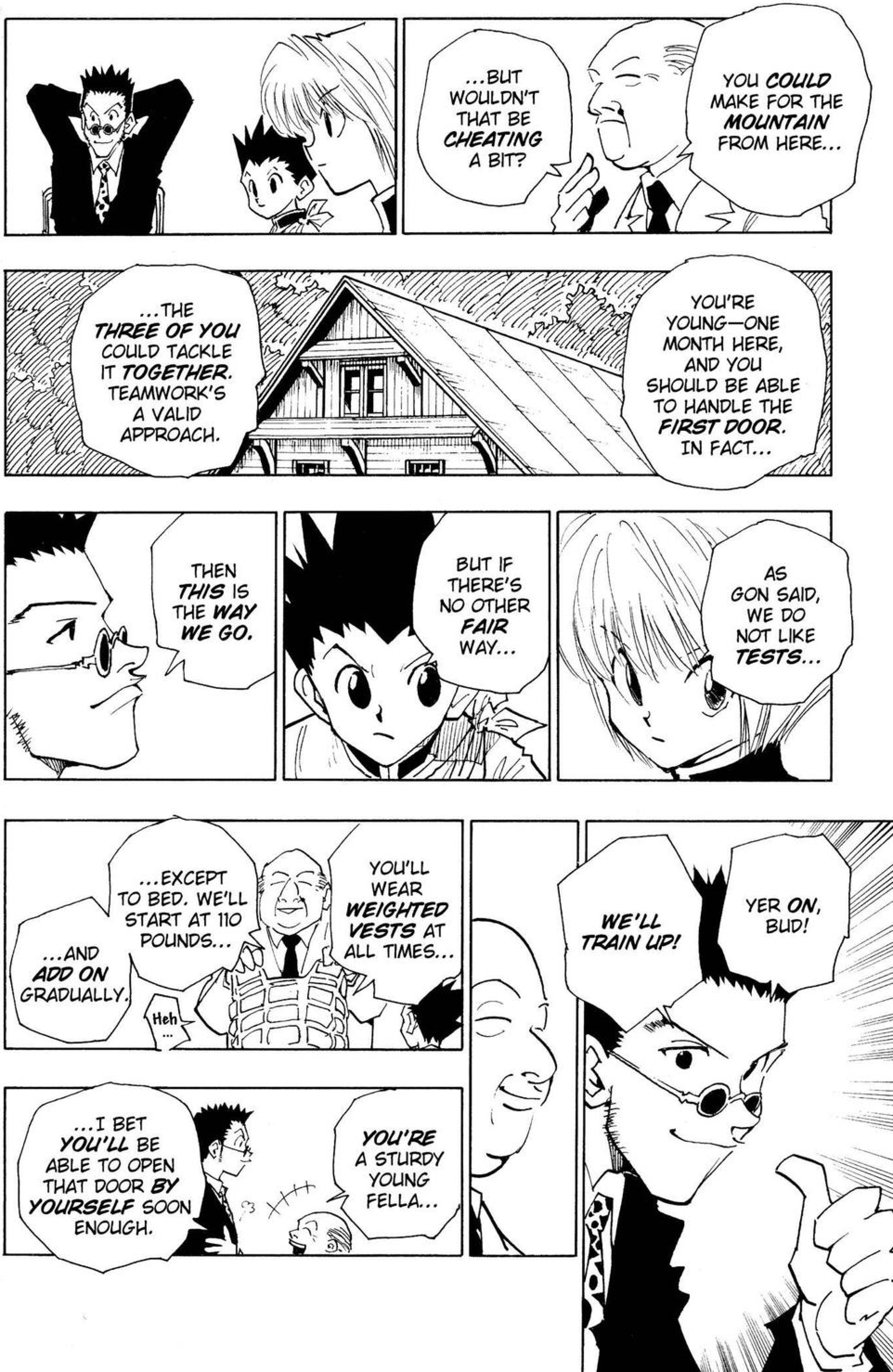
READ THIS WAY

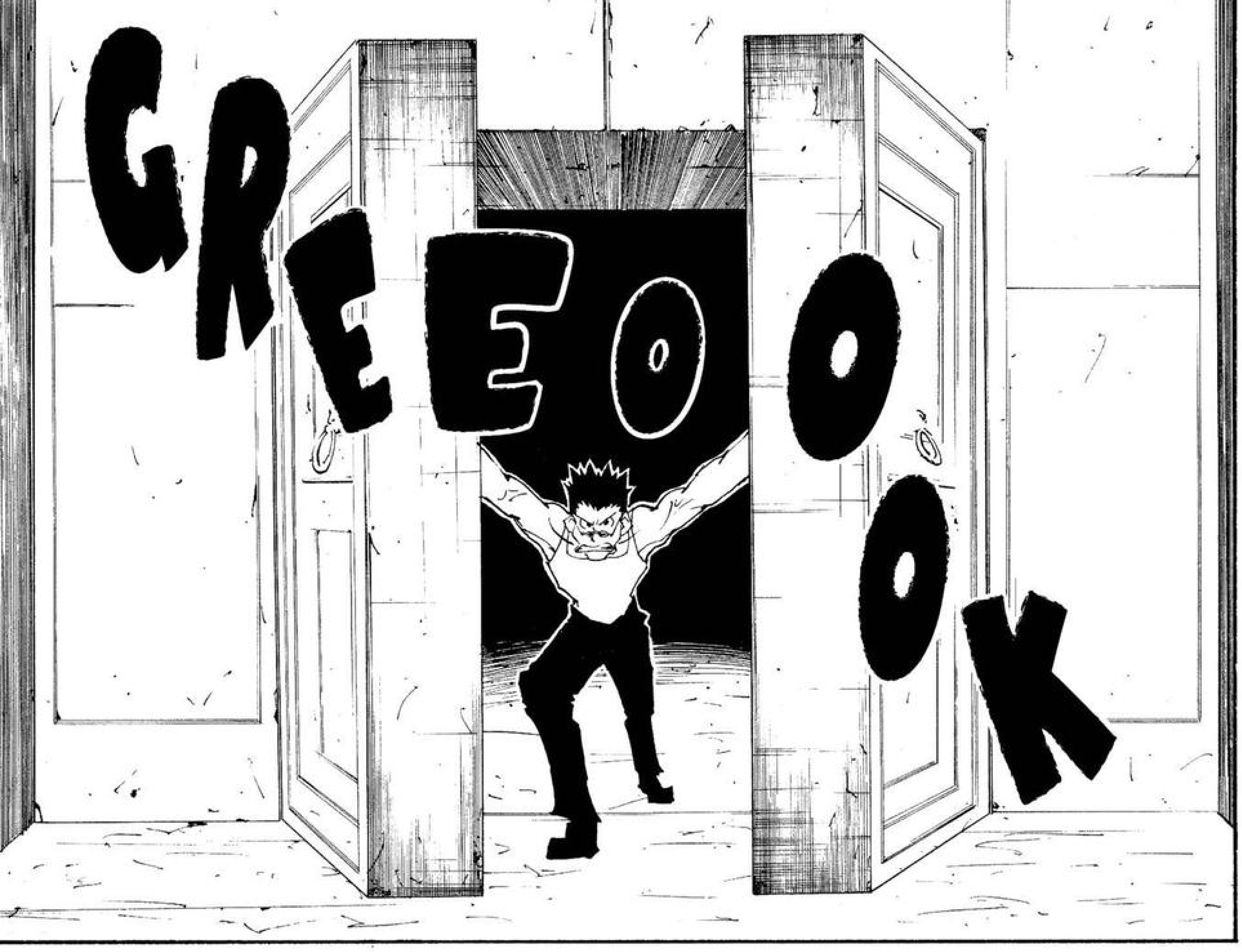

HE'S NOTING THE LOOK AND SMELL OF PEOPLE WHO ARE NEW TO HIM.
HE FINDS NOTHING ELSE OF INTEREST. IN TRUTH...
...HE'S JUST A LIVING MACHINE.
HE RESPONDS SOLELY TO COMMANDS...
...AND WOULD EVEN ATTACK ME ON THAT BASIS.
THINK YOU COULD TACKLE HIM?
SHAKE SHAKE
NO, HE REALLY...
...SCARES THE SPIT OUTTA ME.
AN HONEST LAD, TOO.
Heh.
ALL RIGHT... FOLLOW ME, THEN.
HUH?

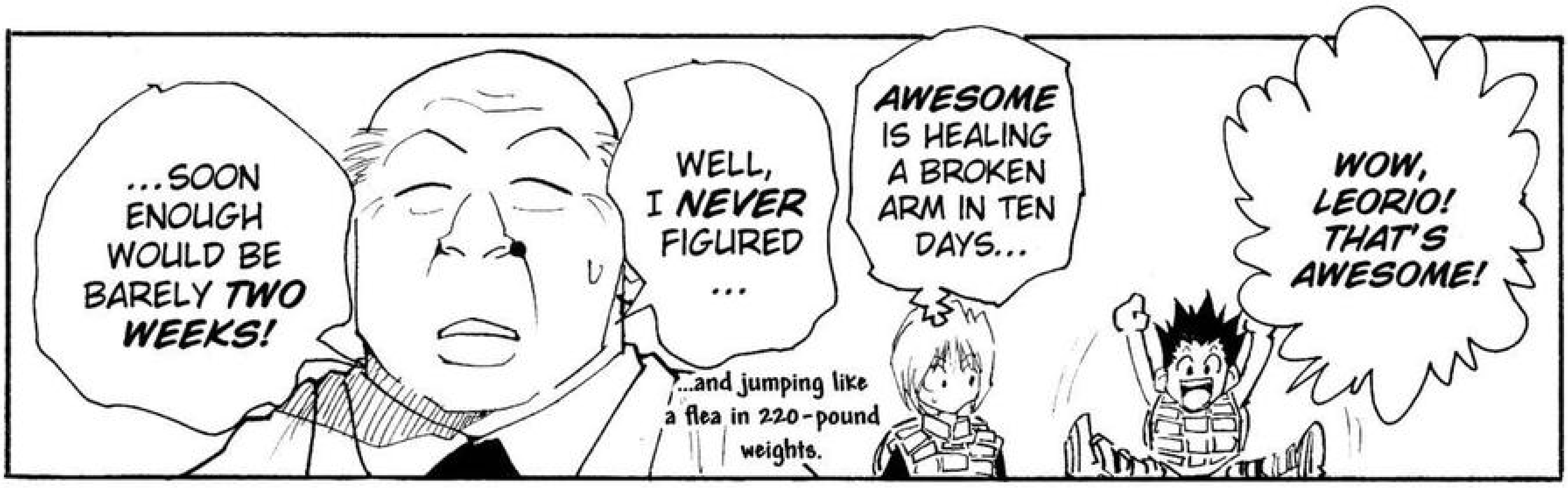

THE SERVANTS' QUARTERS ARE THIS WAY.
WE'LL PUT YOU UP FOR THE NIGHT.
Shift change!
CREEAK
HEY...
...WE GOT GUESTS? HOW 'BOUT THAT!
ZEBRO DOESN'T TAKE A LIKING TO JUST ANYBODY. C'MON IN, MAKE YOURSELVES AT HOME...
...TO WHAT EXTENT YOU CAN, ANYWAY.
RIGHT. TRY PUSHING...
...THESE DOORS OPEN.
!

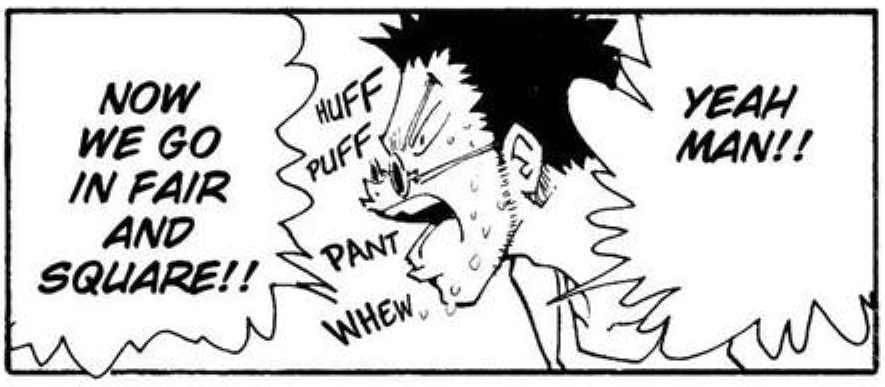
READ THIS WAY

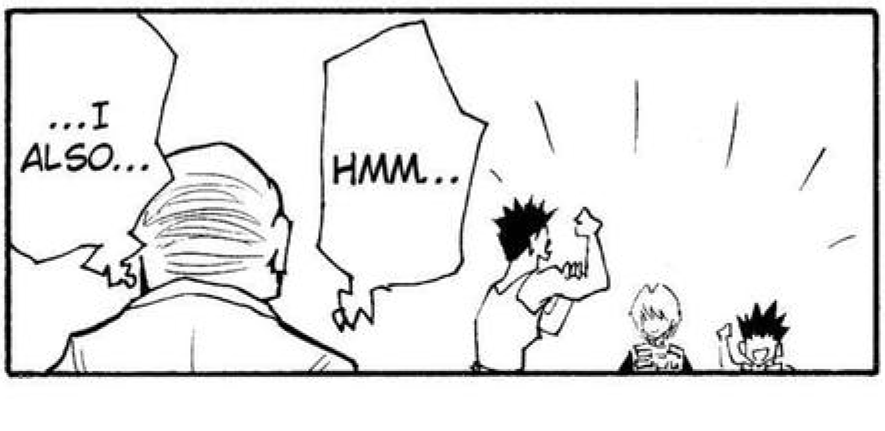

WHEW! *TOUGH!*
BECAUSE THEY WEIGH *440 POUNDS* EACH.
WE HAVE TO *WORK OUT CONSTANTLY* AROUND HERE.
GO ON, PUT YOUR *BACK* INTO IT.
CREEAK
RARR..
THERE'S SLIPPERS FOR YOU.
DOOM
44 POUNDS EACH, BY THE WAY.
FRESH HOT TEA, TOO.
BWOONG
IN *44 POUND* MUGS...SO SIP CAREFULLY.
YOU'RE HERE ON TOURIST VISAS?
YES.
SO YOU CAN STAY IN PADOKEA A *MONTH,* AT MOST.
Chair: 132 pounds
IF YOU'D LIKE...
...YOU CAN *TRAIN* IN THIS HOUSE.
!

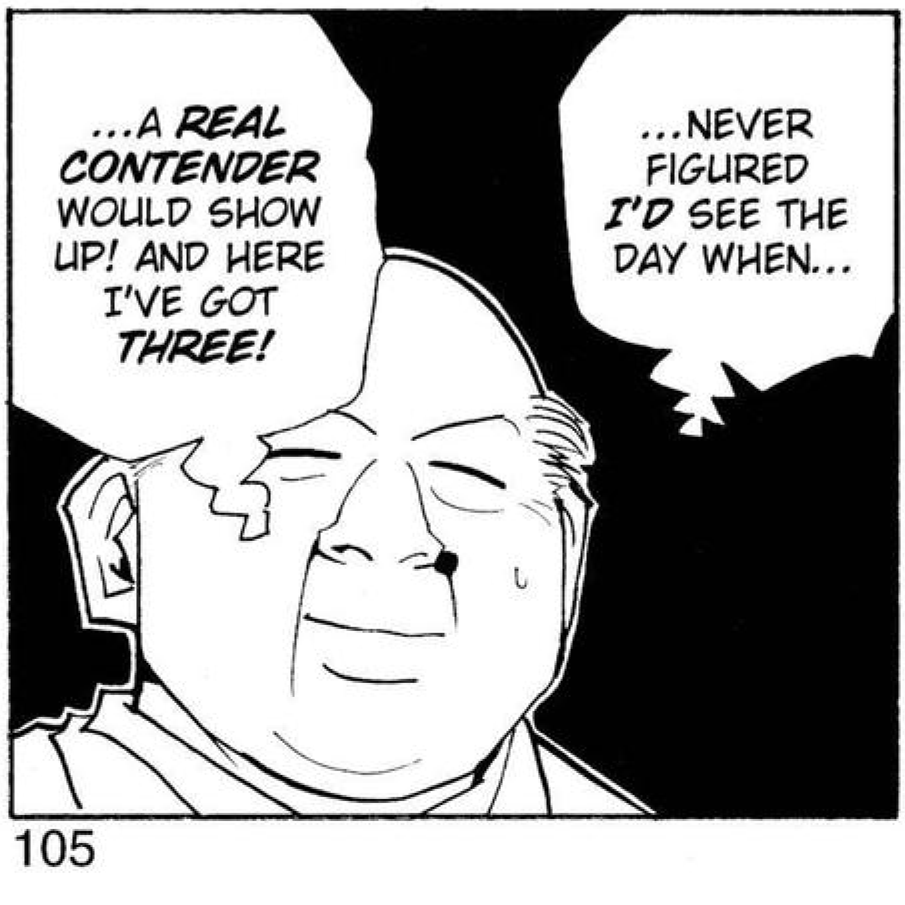

YOU COULD MAKE FOR THE MOUNTAIN FROM HERE...
...BUT WOULDN'T THAT BE CHEATING A BIT?
YOU'RE YOUNG—ONE MONTH HERE, AND YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE THE FIRST DOOR. IN FACT...
...THE THREE OF YOU COULD TACKLE IT TOGETHER. TEAMWORK'S A VALID APPROACH.
AS GON SAID, WE DO NOT LIKE TESTS...
BUT IF THERE'S NO OTHER FAIR WAY...
THEN THIS IS THE WAY WE GO.
YOU'LL WEAR WEIGHTED VESTS AT ALL TIMES...
...EXCEPT TO BED. WE'LL START AT 110 POUNDS...
...AND ADD ON GRADUALLY.
Heh...
YOU'RE A STURDY YOUNG FELLA...
...I BET YOU'LL BE ABLE TO OPEN THAT DOOR BY YOURSELF SOON ENOUGH.
YER ON, BUD!
WE'LL TRAIN UP!

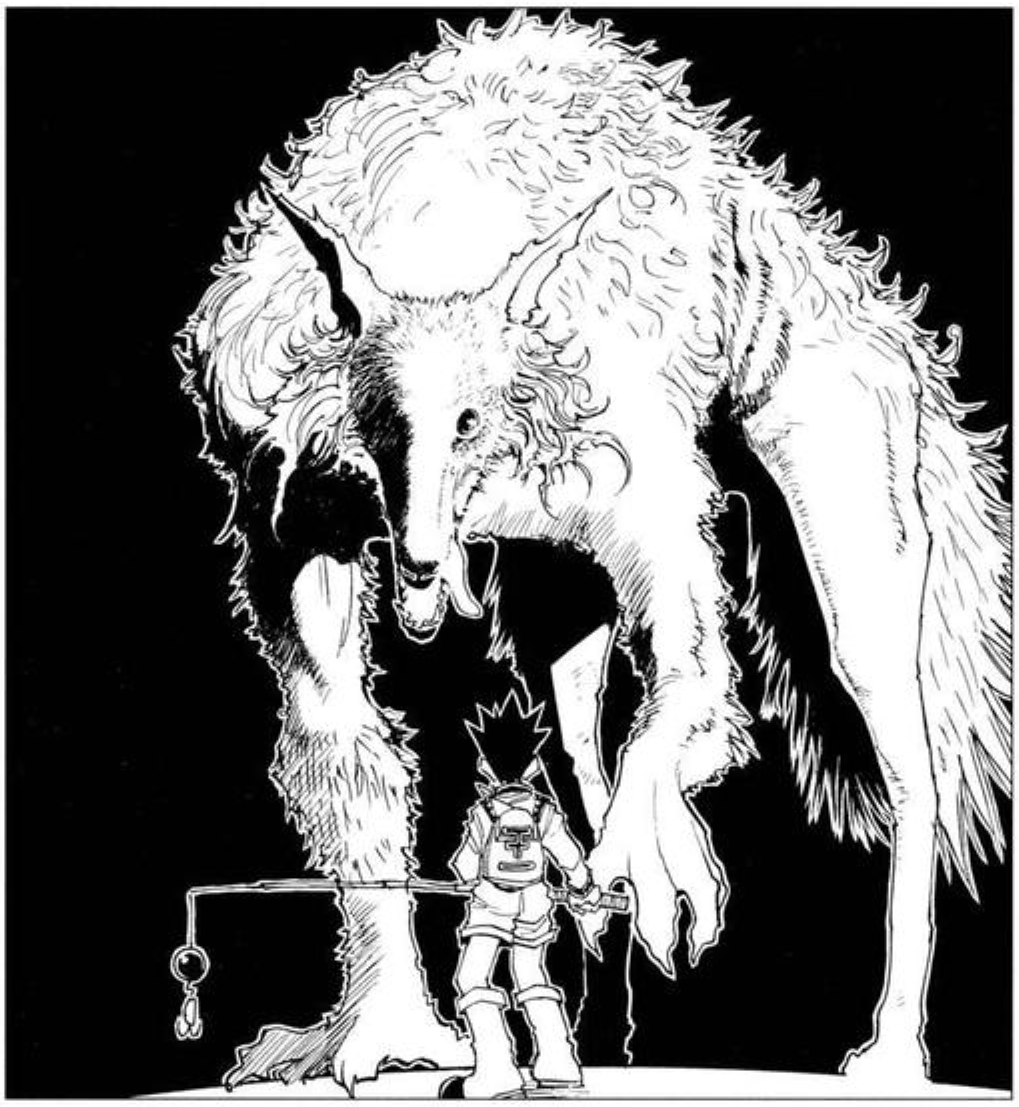

GREEOOOK


WOW, LEORIO! THAT'S AWESOME!
AWESOME IS HEALING A BROKEN ARM IN TEN DAYS...
...and jumping like a flea in 220-pound weights.
WELL, I NEVER FIGURED...
...SOON ENOUGH WOULD BE BARELY TWO WEEKS!


YEAH MAN!!
HUFF
PUFF
PANT
WHEW
NOW WE GO IN FAIR AND SQUARE!!

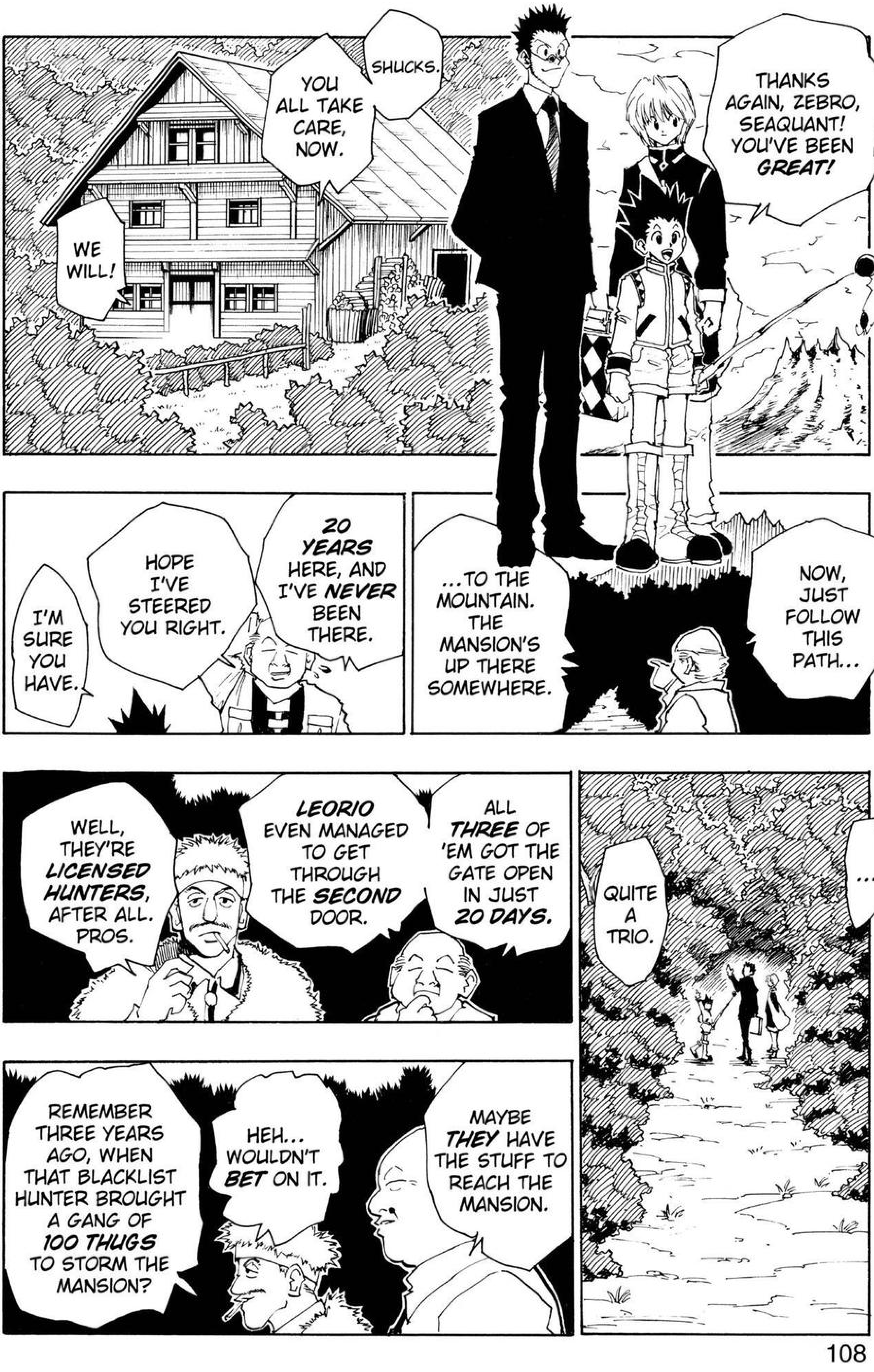

HMM...
...I ALSO...

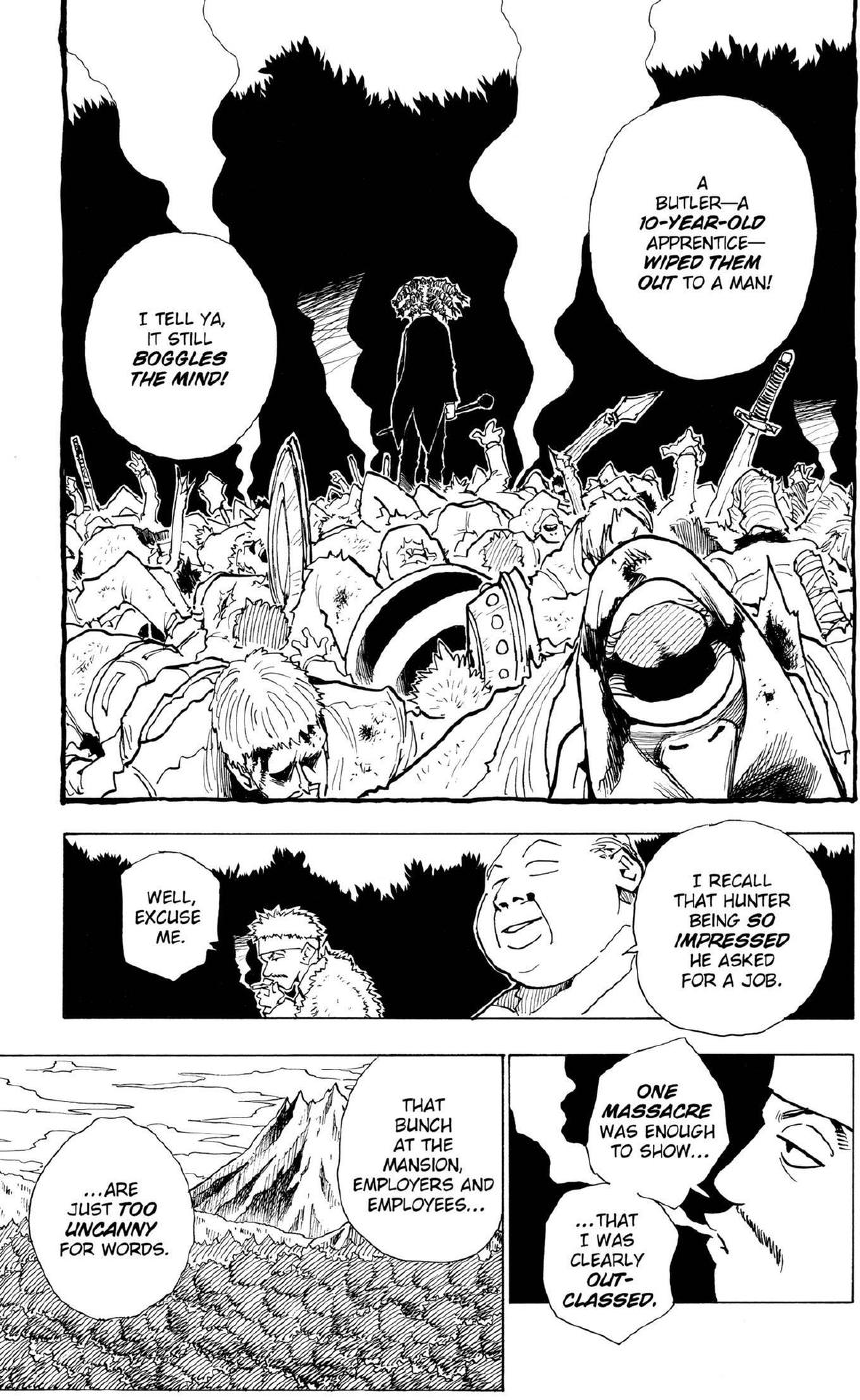

...NEVER FIGURED I'D SEE THE DAY WHEN...
...A REAL CONTENDER WOULD SHOW UP! AND HERE I'VE GOT THREE!



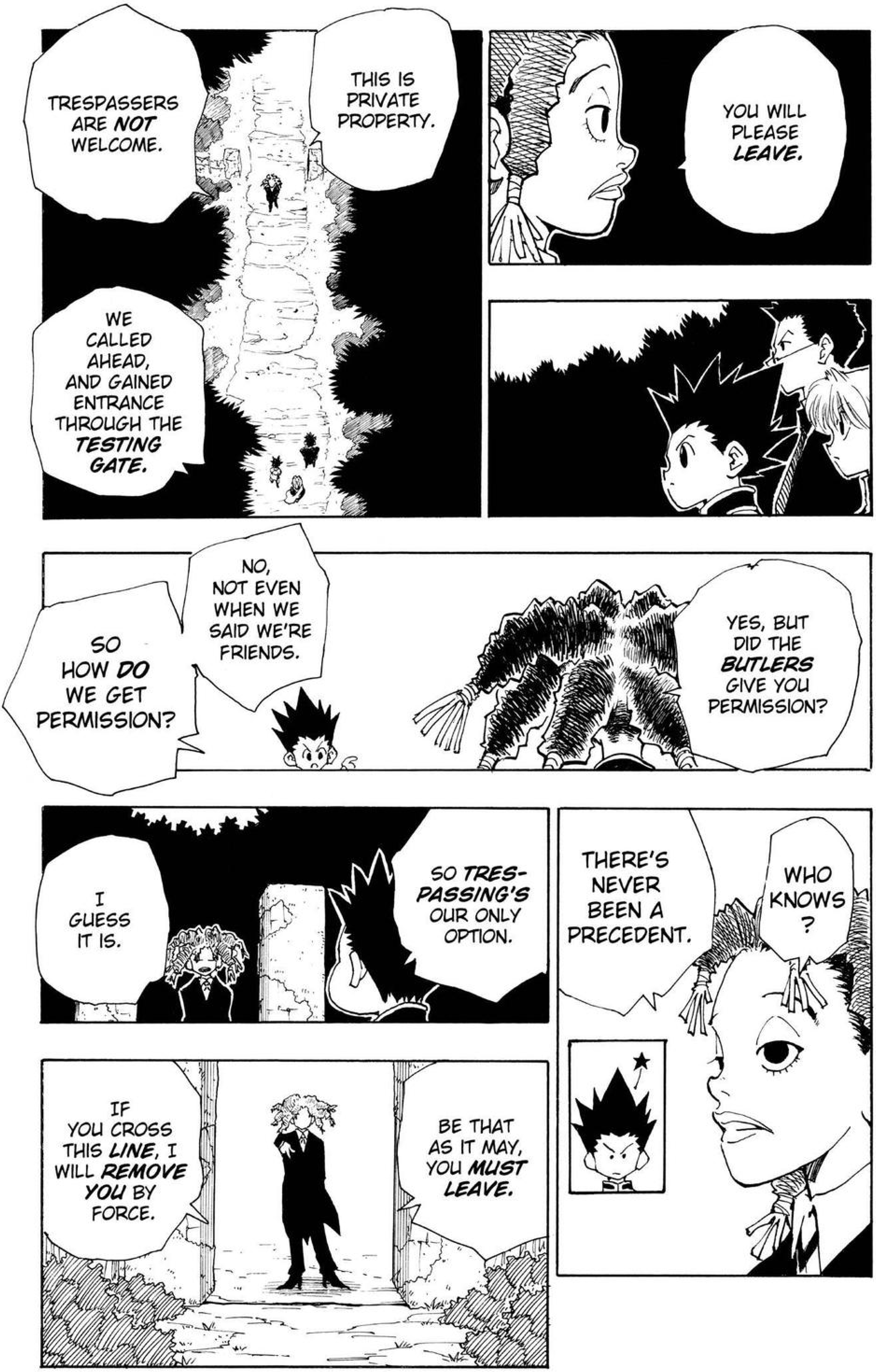
Chapter 41

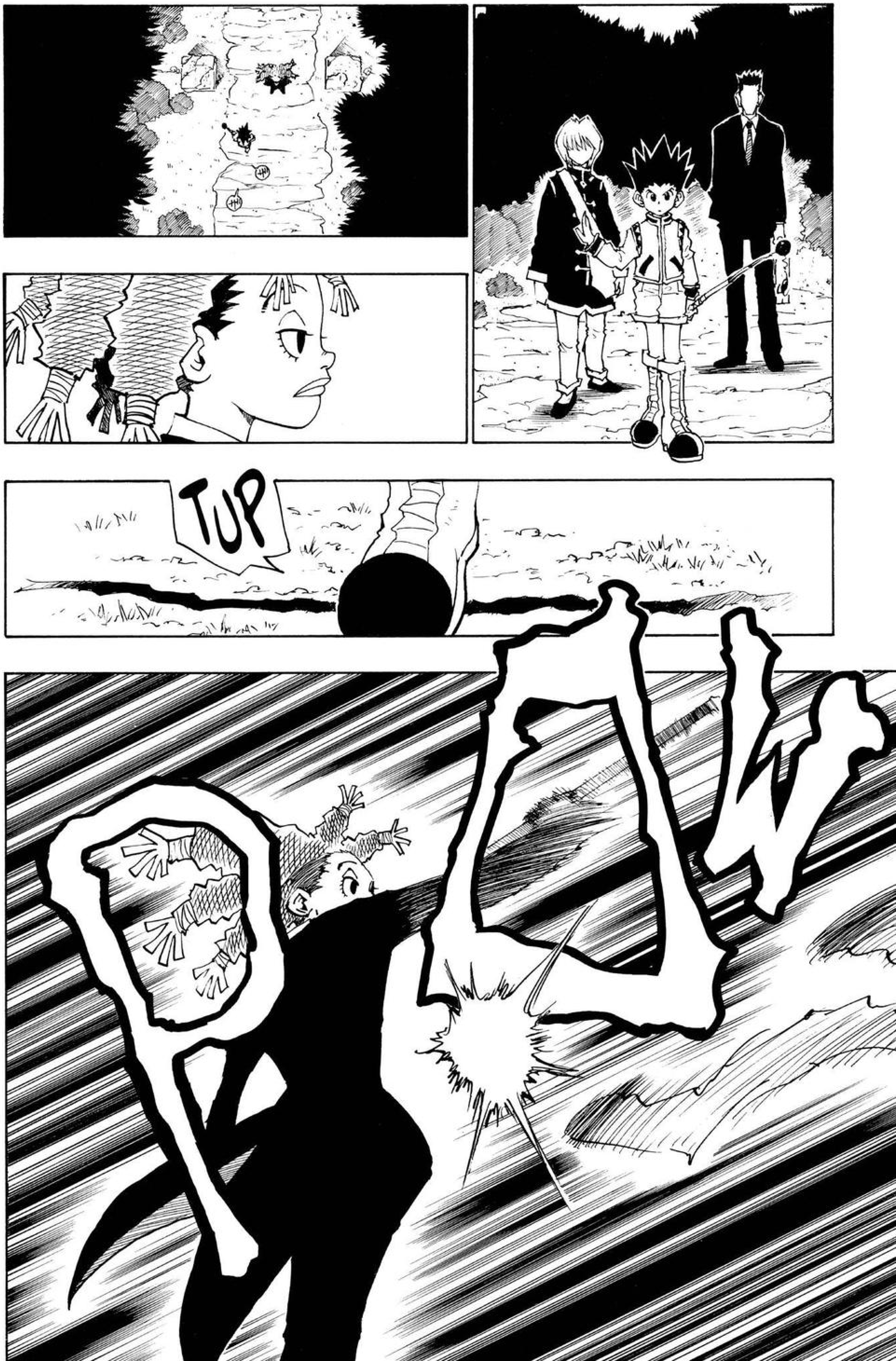
The Zoldycks, part 2

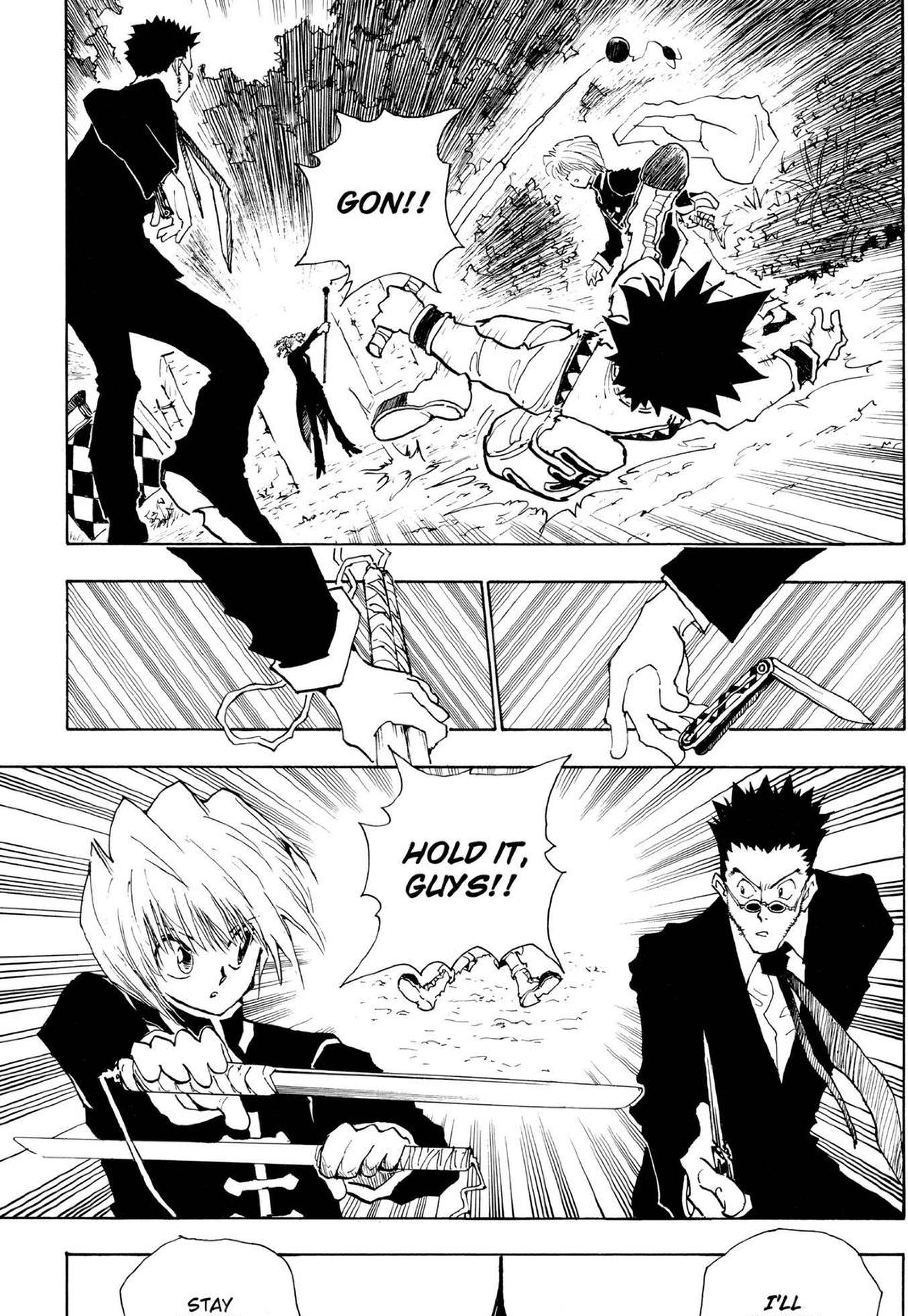

THANKS AGAIN, ZEBRO, SEAQUANT! YOU'VE BEEN **GREAT!**
SHUCKS.
YOU ALL TAKE CARE, NOW.
WE WILL!
NOW, JUST FOLLOW THIS PATH...
...TO THE MOUNTAIN. THE MANSION'S UP THERE SOMEWHERE.
20 YEARS HERE, AND I'VE **NEVER** BEEN THERE.
HOPE I'VE STEERED YOU RIGHT.
I'M SURE YOU HAVE.
...
QUITE A TRIO.
ALL **THREE** OF 'EM GOT THE GATE OPEN IN JUST **20 DAYS.**
LEORIO EVEN MANAGED TO GET THROUGH THE **SECOND** DOOR.
WELL, THEY'RE **LICENSED HUNTERS**, AFTER ALL. PROS.
MAYBE **THEY** HAVE THE STUFF TO REACH THE MANSION.
HEH... WOULDN'T **BET** ON IT.
REMEMBER THREE YEARS AGO, WHEN THAT BLACKLIST HUNTER BROUGHT A GANG OF **100 THUGS** TO STORM THE MANSION?

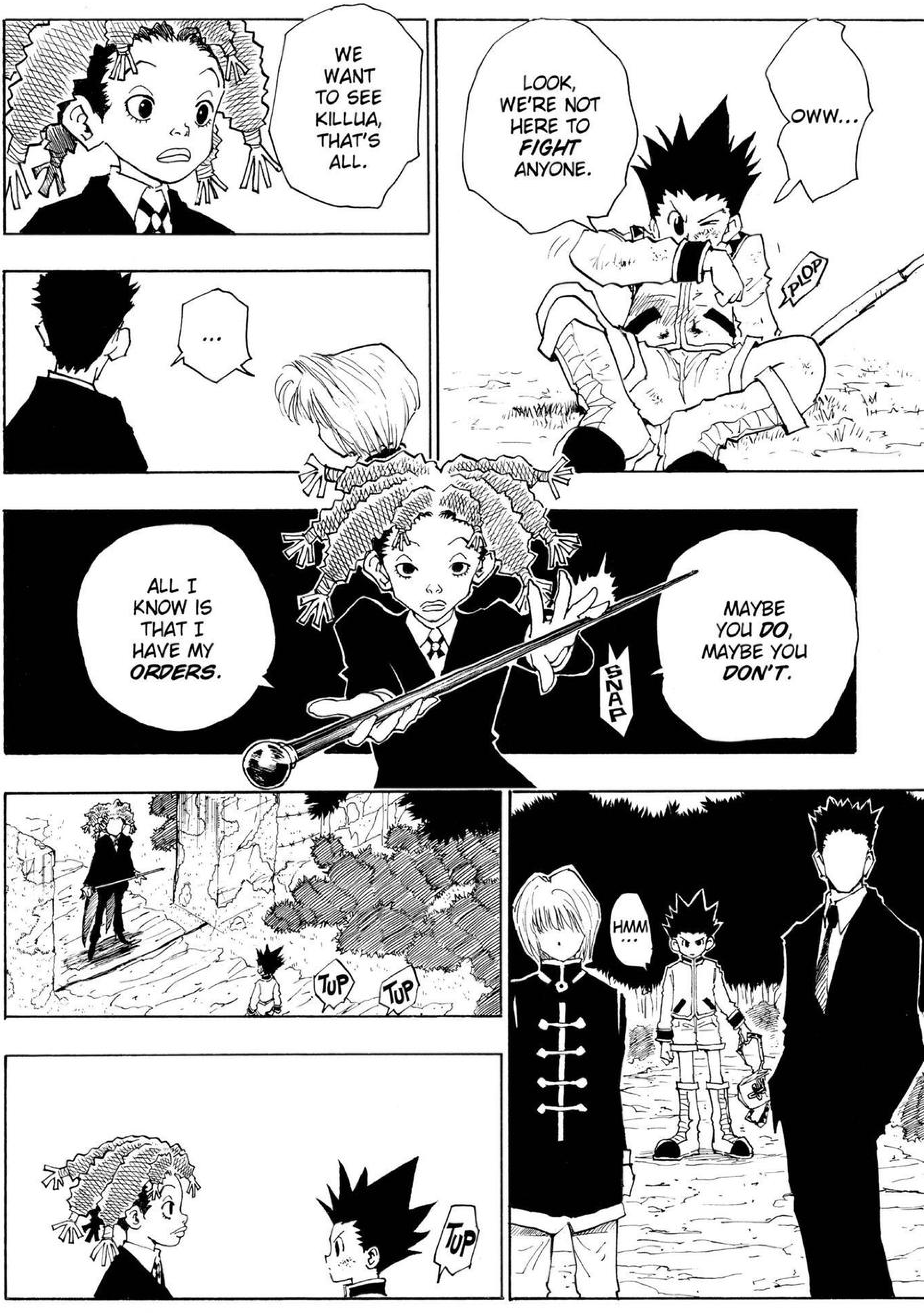

A BUTLER—A *10-YEAR-OLD* APPRENTICE—***WIPED THEM OUT*** TO A MAN!
I TELL YA, IT STILL ***BOGGLES THE MIND!***
I RECALL THAT HUNTER BEING ***SO IMPRESSED*** HE ASKED FOR A JOB.
WELL, EXCUSE ME.
ONE MASSACRE WAS ENOUGH TO SHOW...
...THAT I WAS CLEARLY ***OUT-CLASSED.***
THAT BUNCH AT THE MANSION, EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES...
...ARE JUST ***TOO UNCANNY*** FOR WORDS.

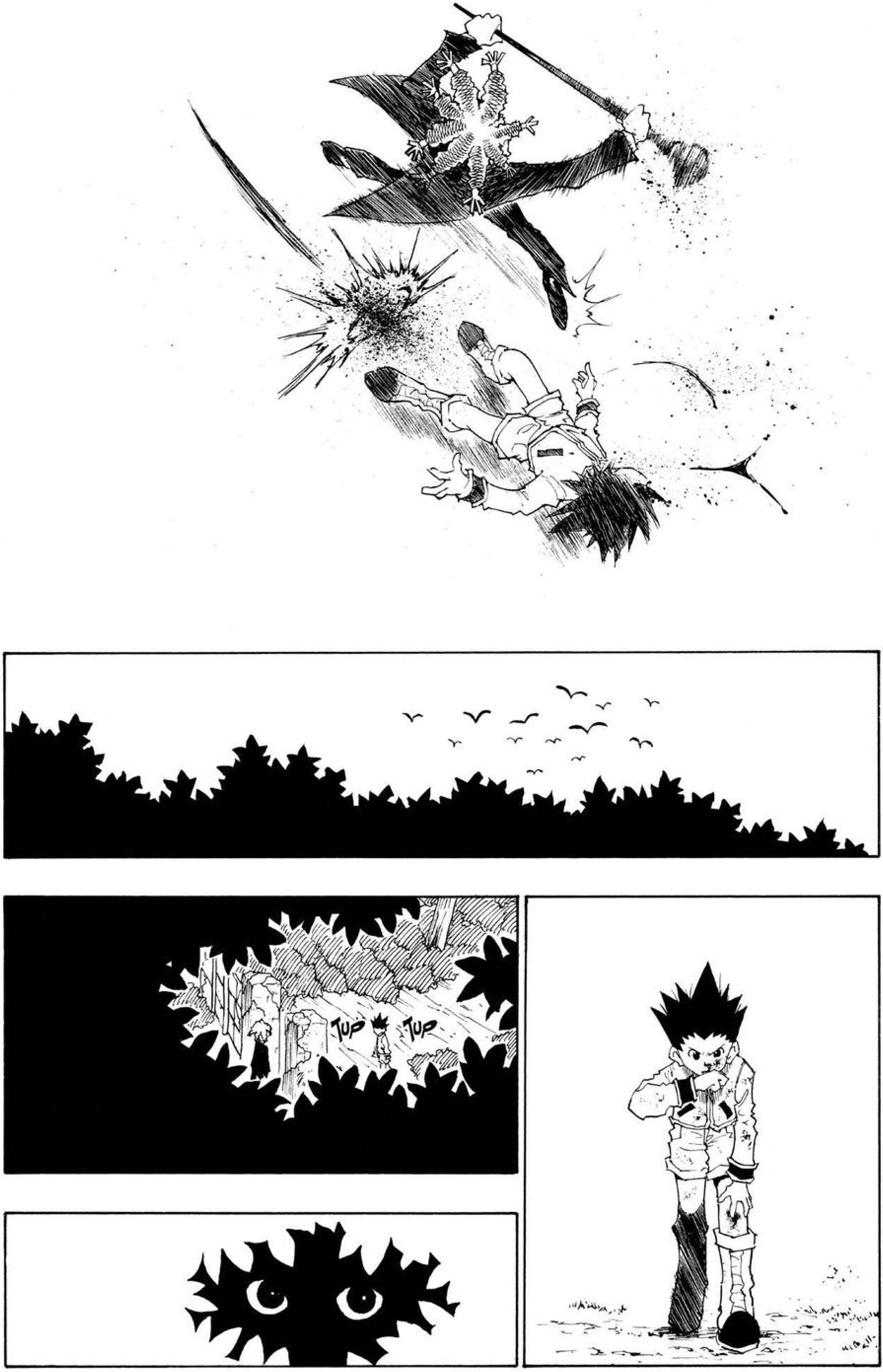
HMM...


YOU WILL PLEASE *LEAVE.*
THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY.
TRESPASSERS ARE *NOT* WELCOME.
WE CALLED AHEAD, AND GAINED ENTRANCE THROUGH THE *TESTING GATE.*
YES, BUT DID THE *BUTLERS* GIVE YOU PERMISSION?
NO, NOT EVEN WHEN WE SAID WE'RE FRIENDS.
SO HOW *DO* WE GET PERMISSION?
WHO KNOWS?
THERE'S NEVER BEEN A PRECEDENT.
SO *TRESPASSING'S* OUR ONLY OPTION.
I GUESS IT IS.
BE THAT AS IT MAY, YOU *MUST LEAVE.*
IF YOU CROSS THIS *LINE,* I WILL *REMOVE YOU* BY FORCE.

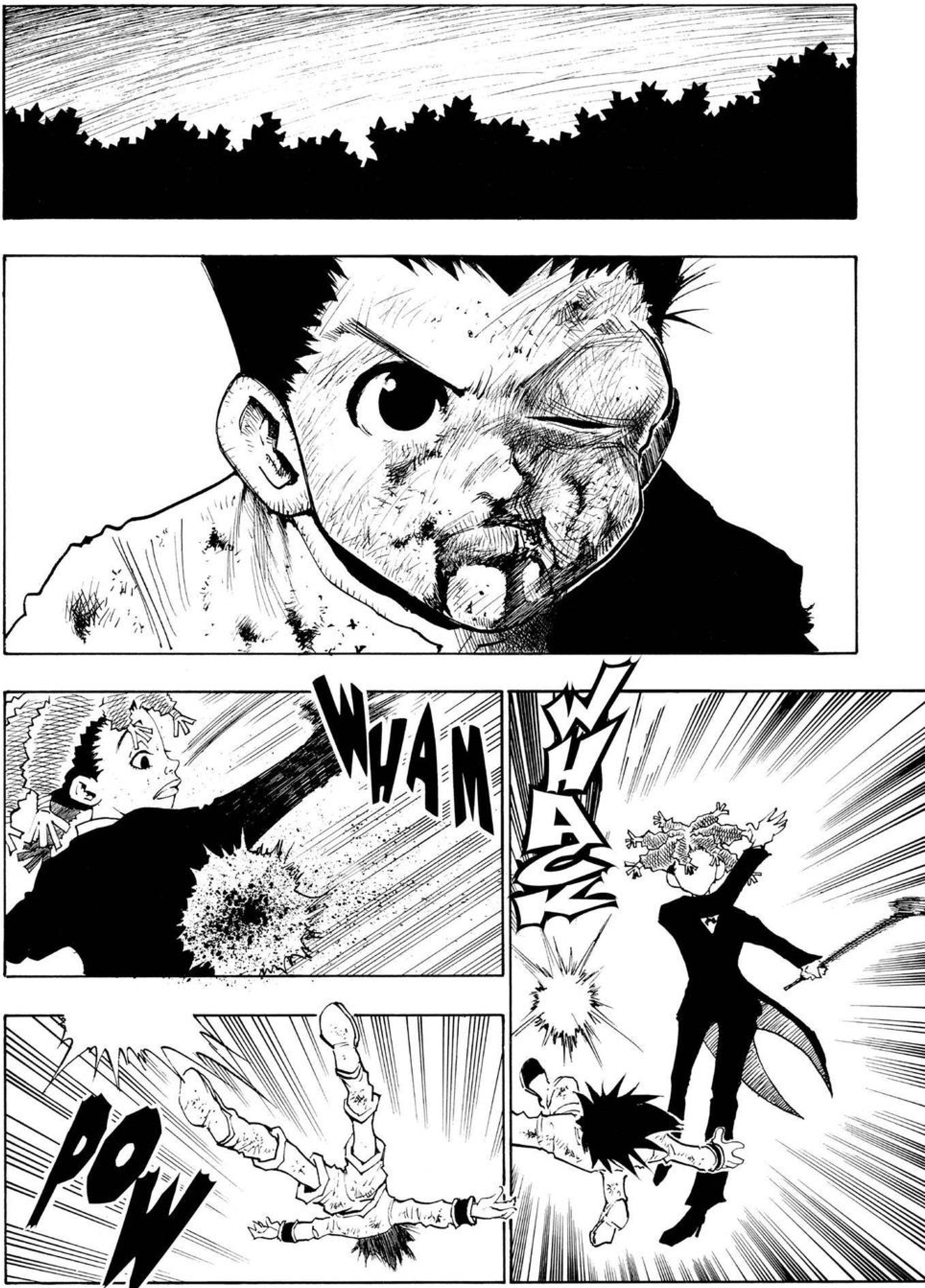

TUP

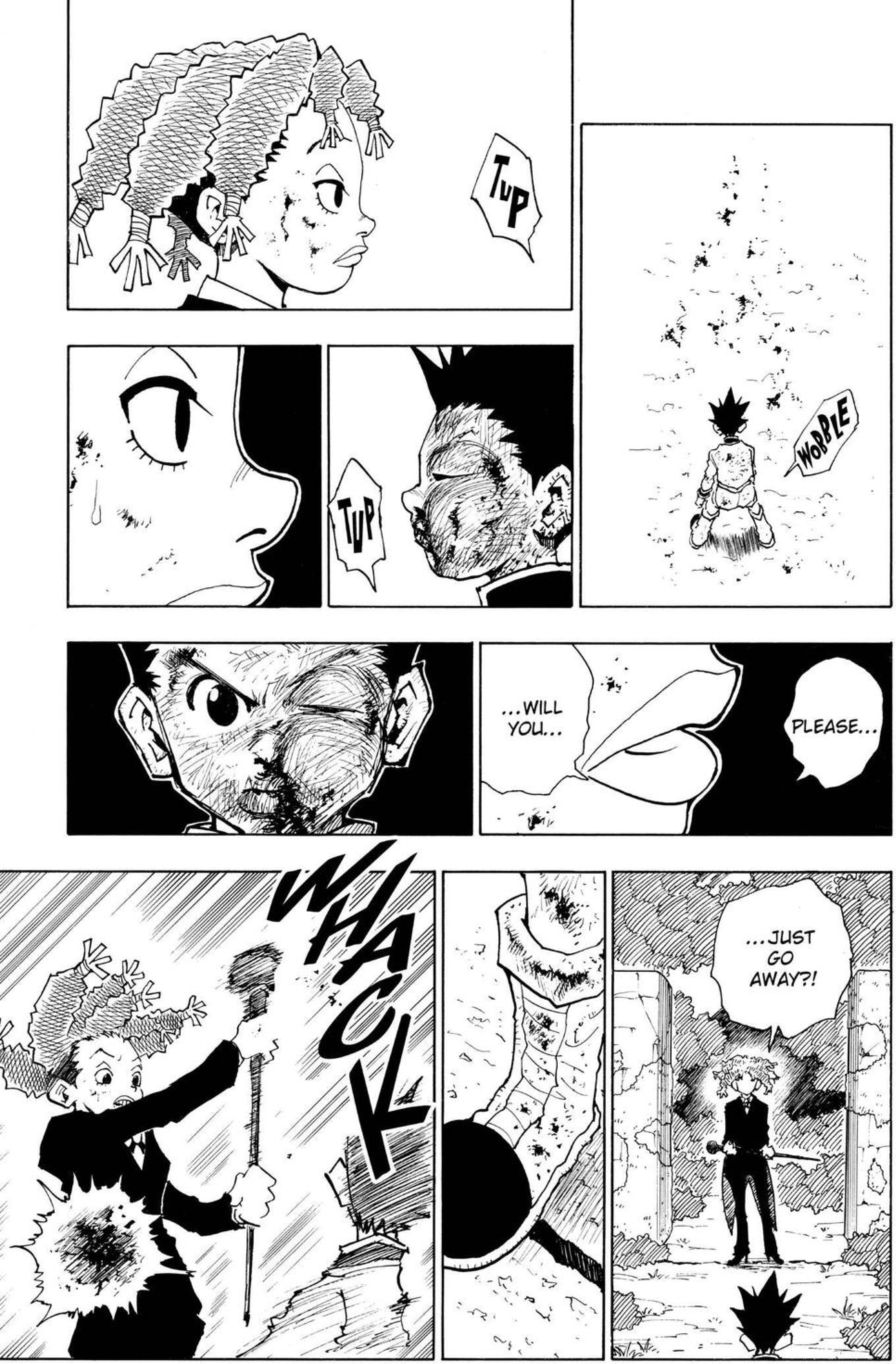

GON!!
HOLD IT, GUYS!!
I'LL HANDLE THIS!
STAY WHERE YOU ARE!

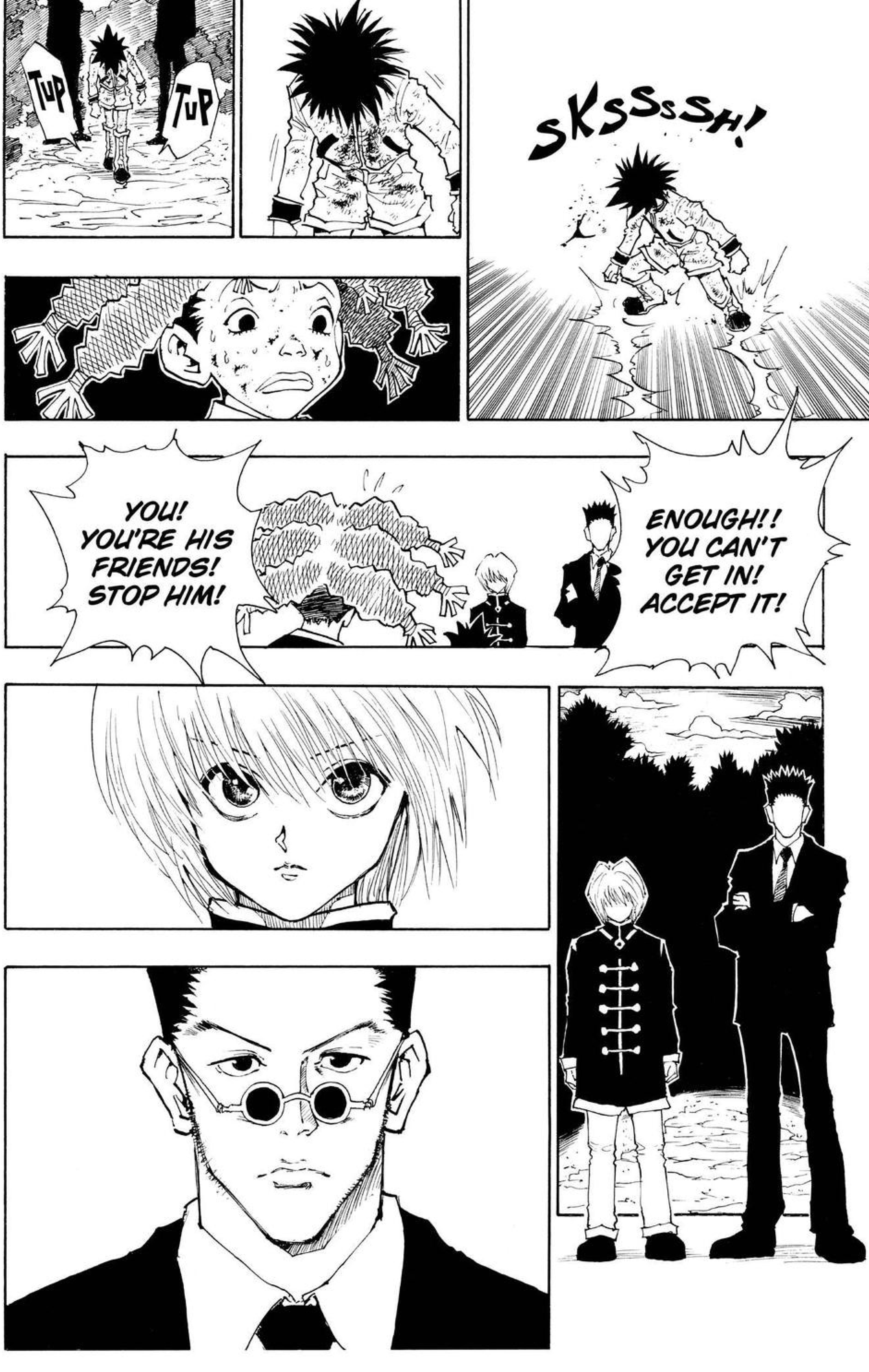

OWW...
LOOK, WE'RE NOT HERE TO *FIGHT* ANYONE.
PLOP
WE WANT TO SEE KILLUA, THAT'S ALL.
...
MAYBE YOU *DO*, MAYBE YOU *DON'T*.
SNAP
ALL I KNOW IS THAT I HAVE MY *ORDERS*.
HMM...
TUP
TUP
TUP

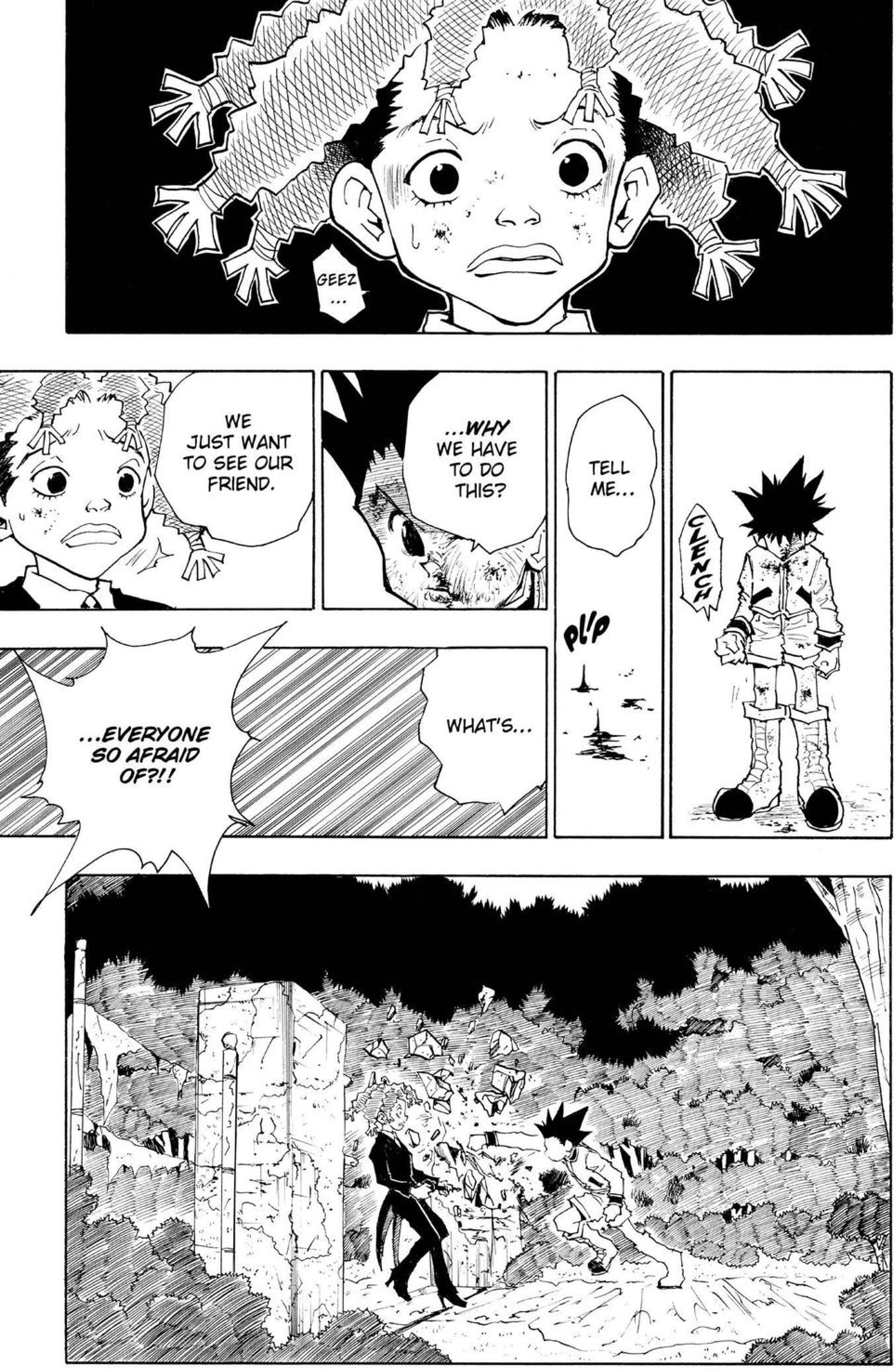


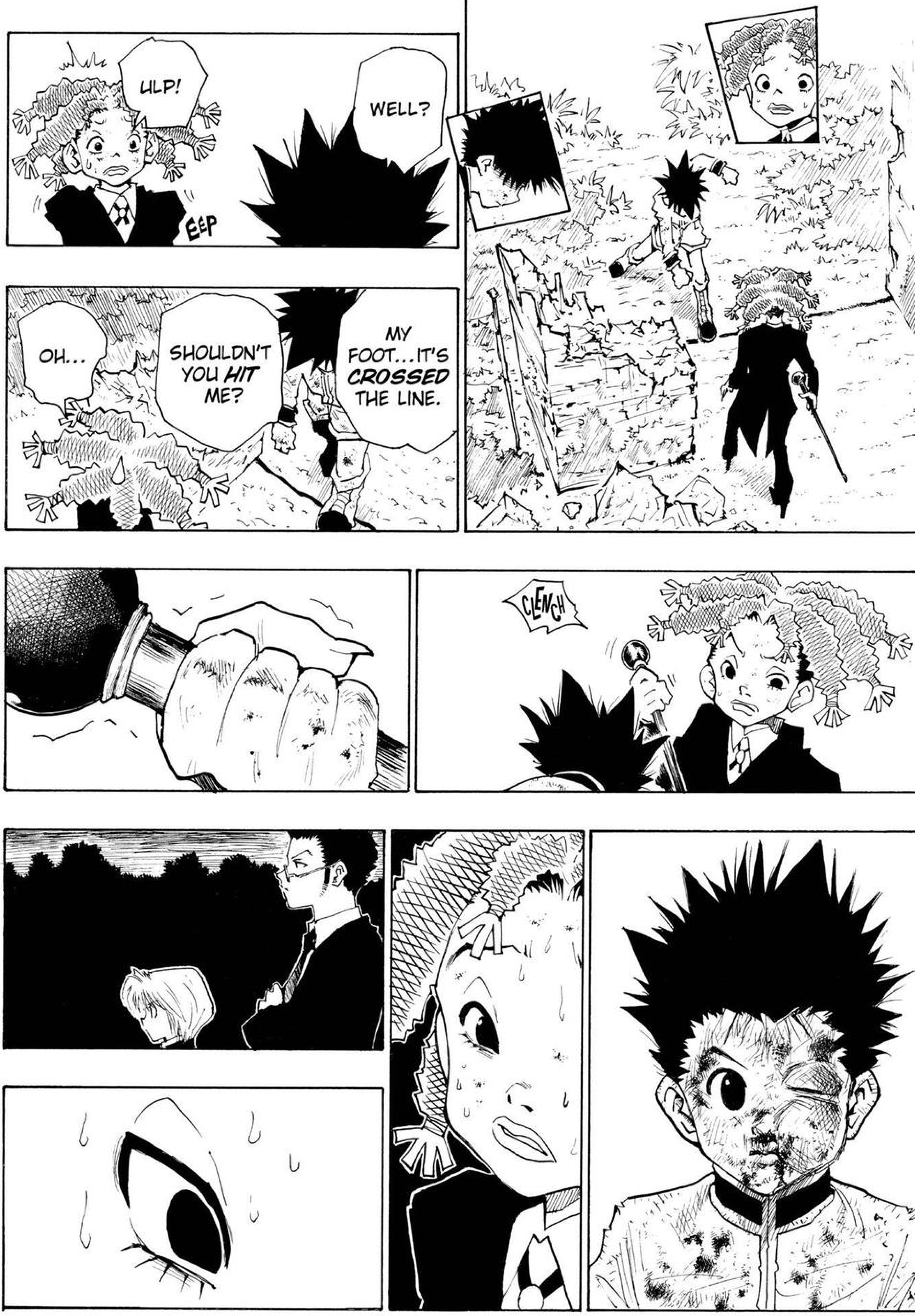
TUP
TUP

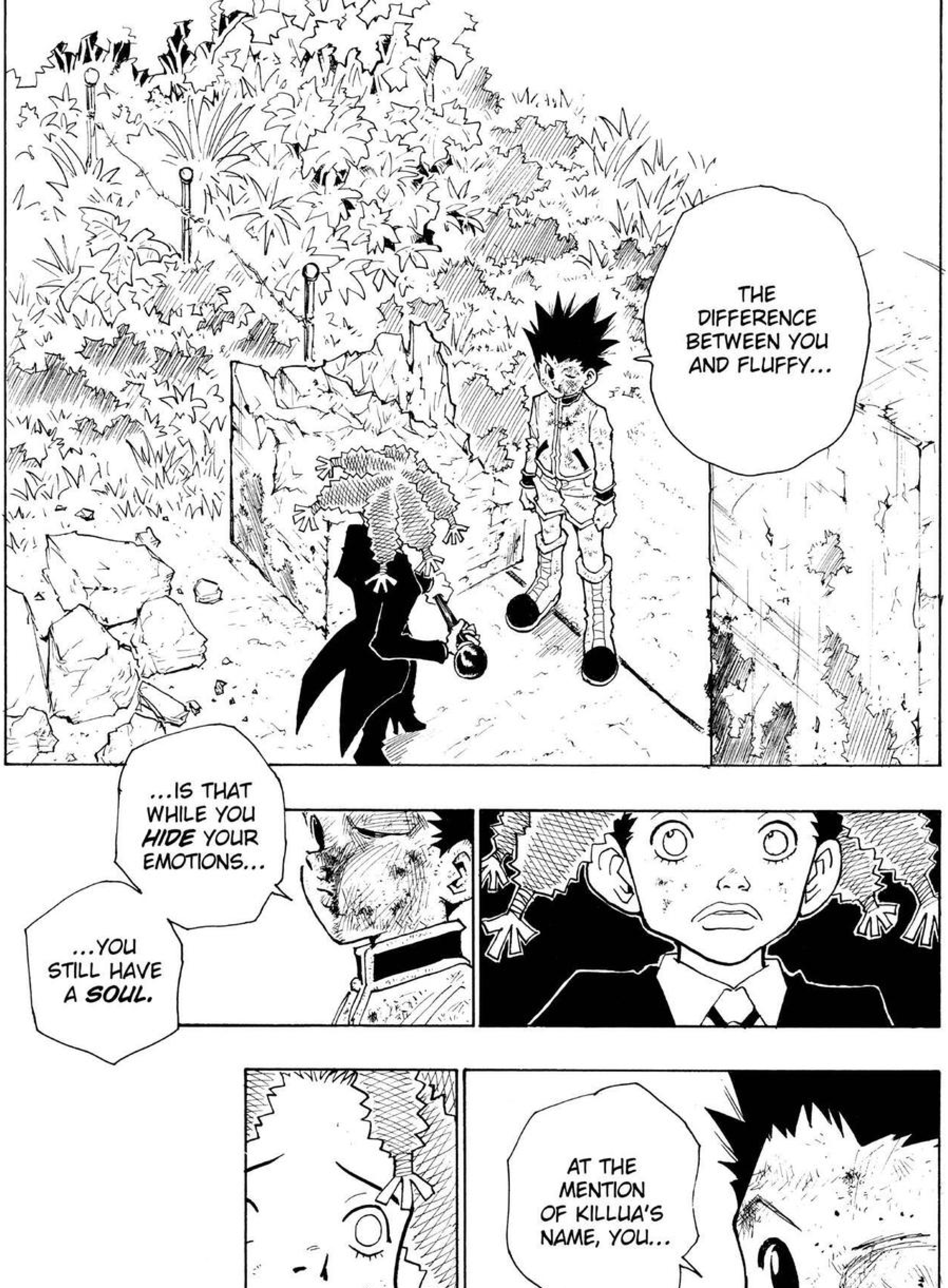

WHACK
WHAM
POW

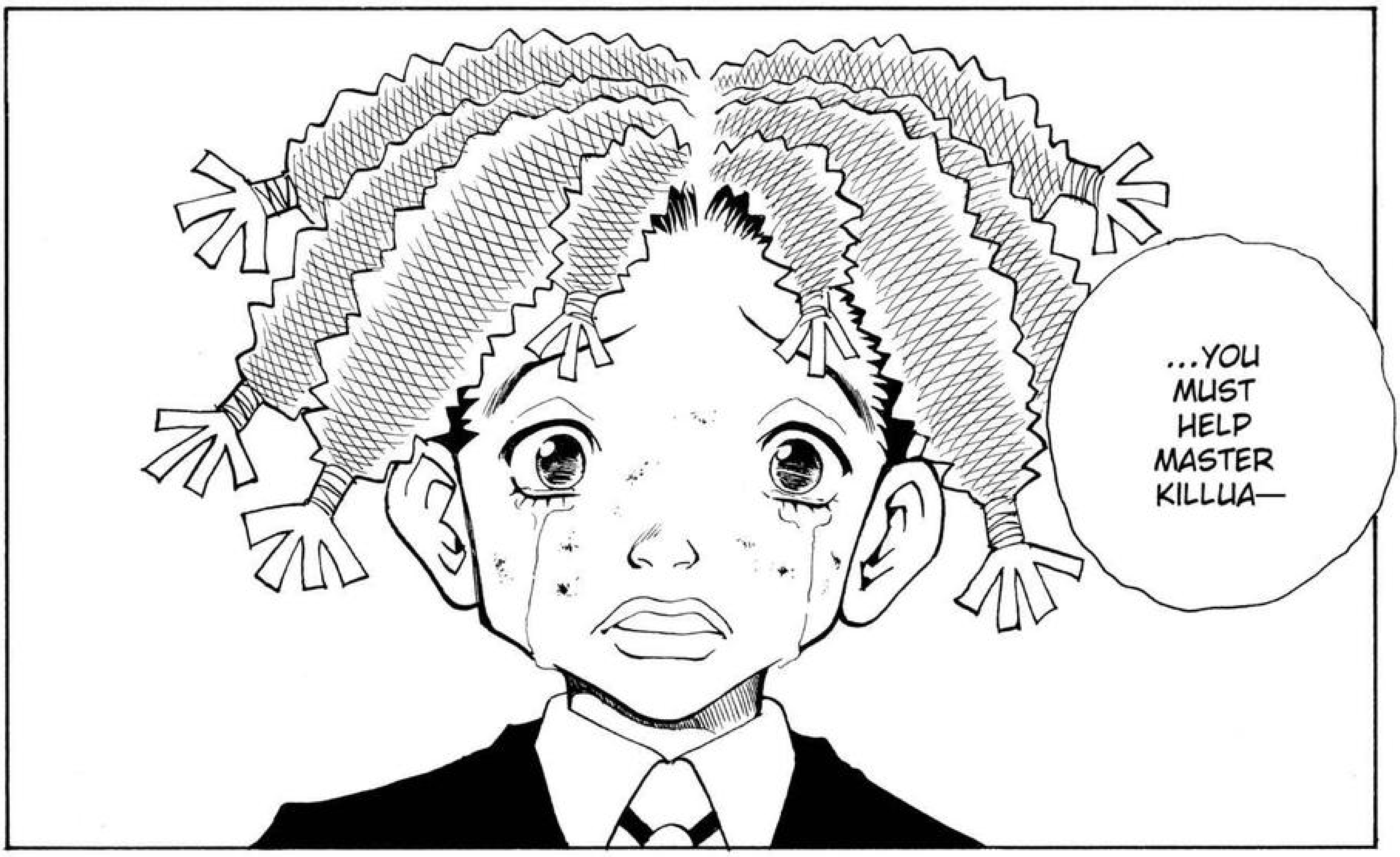

WOBBLE
TUP
TUP
PLEASE...
...WILL YOU...
...JUST GO AWAY?!
WHACK

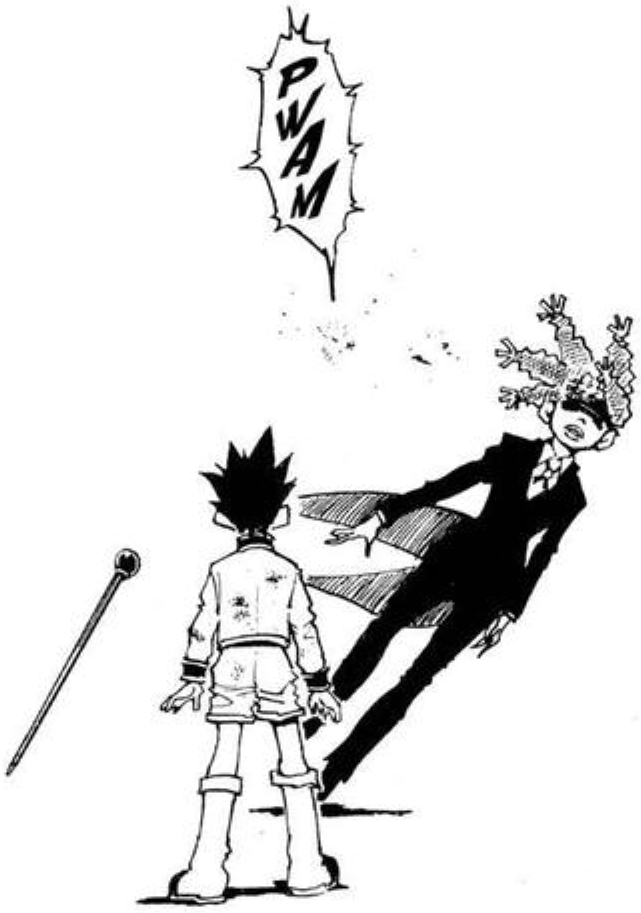

SKSSSSH!
TUP
TUP
ENOUGH!! YOU CAN'T GET IN! ACCEPT IT!
YOU! YOU'RE HIS FRIENDS! STOP HIM!

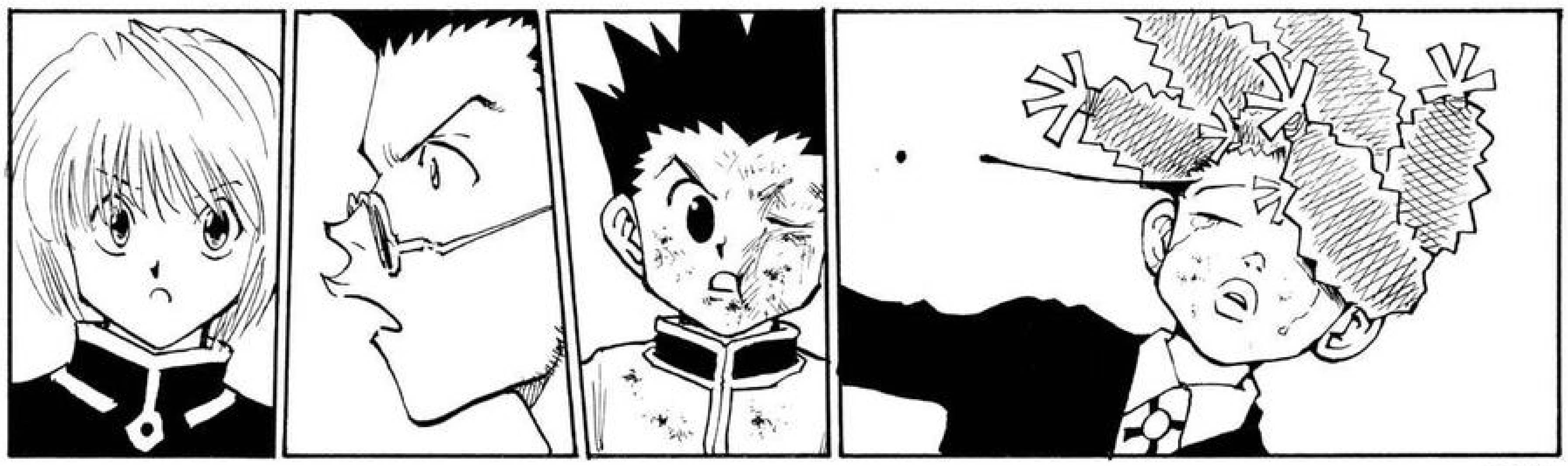

GEEZ ...
CLENCH
PL!P
TELL ME...
...WHY WE HAVE TO DO THIS?
WE JUST WANT TO SEE OUR FRIEND.
WHAT'S...
...EVERYONE SO AFRAID OF?!!

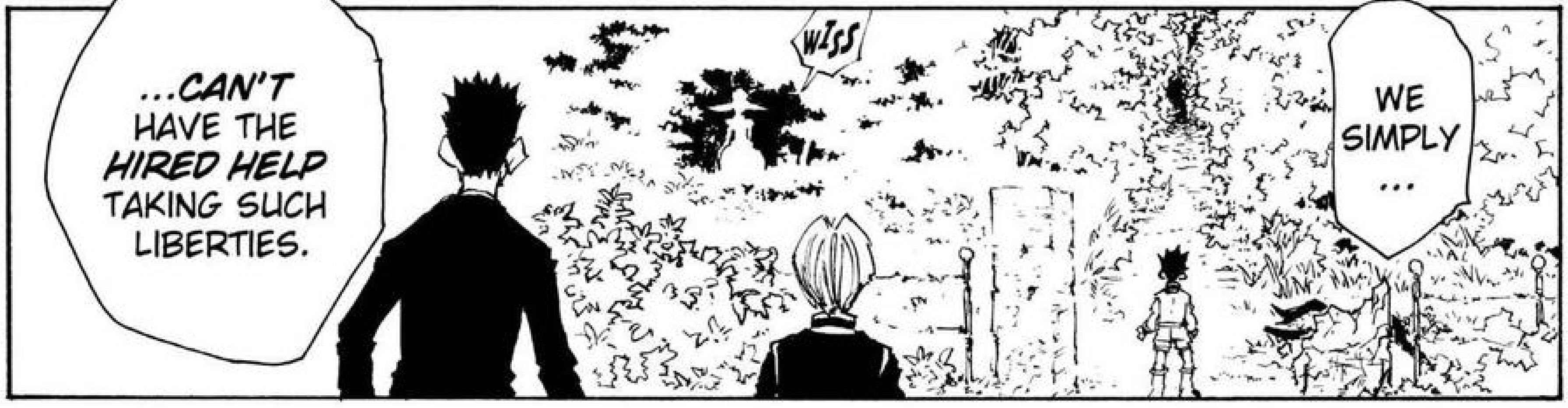

WELL?
ULP!
EEP
MY FOOT...IT'S CROSSED THE LINE.
SHOULDN'T YOU HIT ME?
OH...
CLENCH

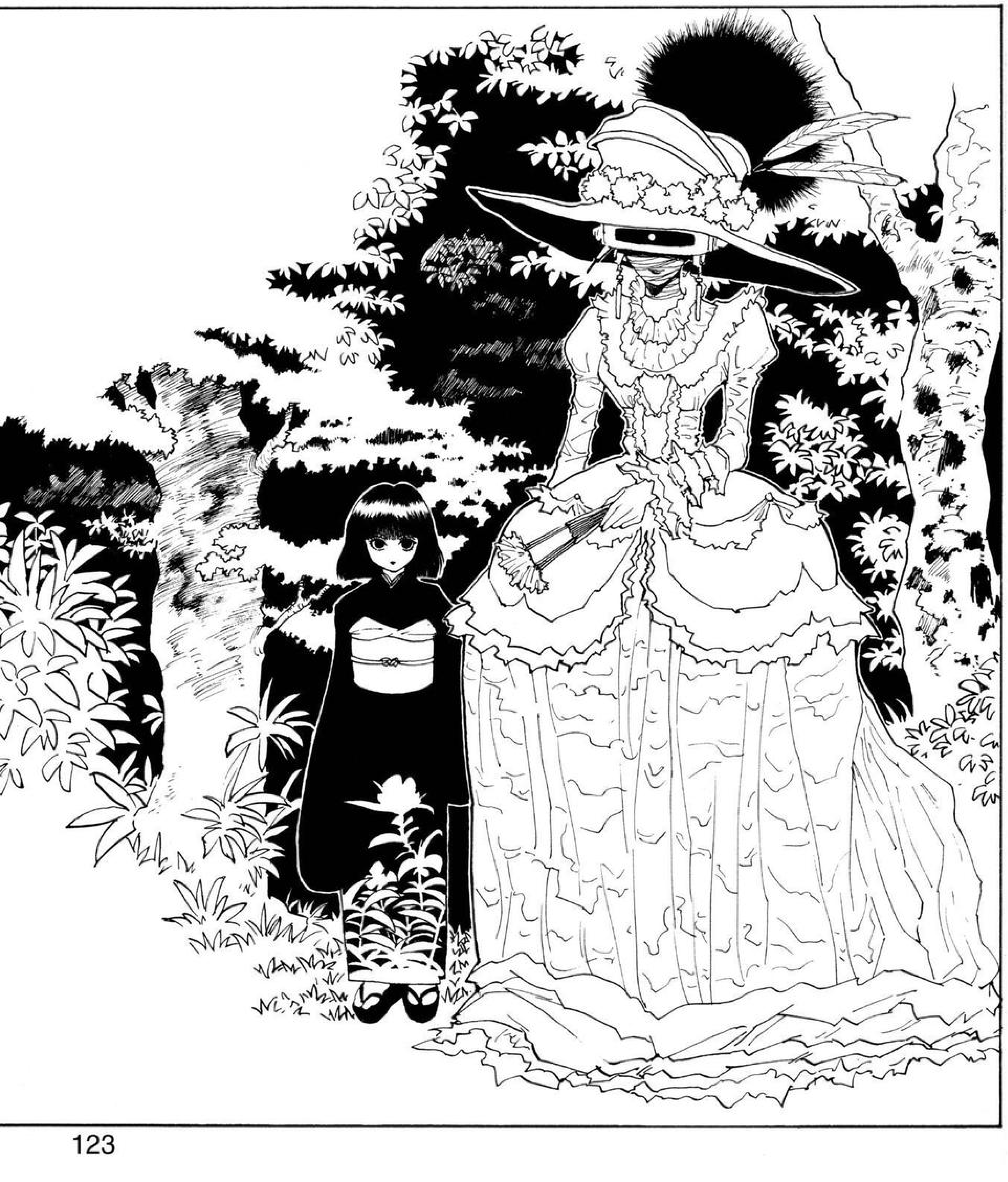

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOU AND FLUFFY...
...IS THAT WHILE YOU *HIDE* YOUR EMOTIONS...
...YOU STILL HAVE A **SOUL.**
AT THE MENTION OF KILLUA'S NAME, YOU...
...***BETRAYED*** SOMETHING... CONCERN, MAYBE?
PLEASE...

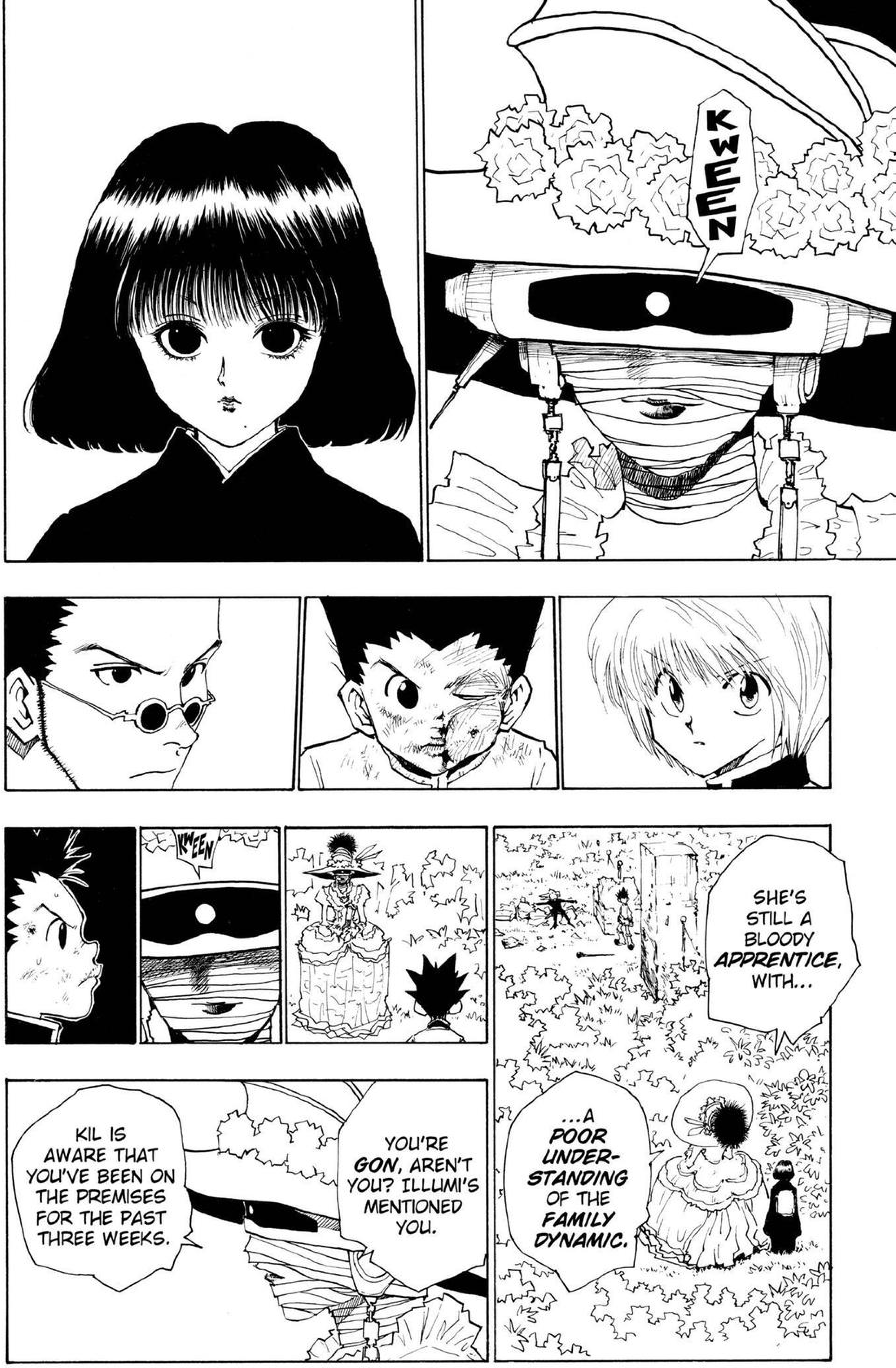

…YOU MUST HELP MASTER KILLUA—

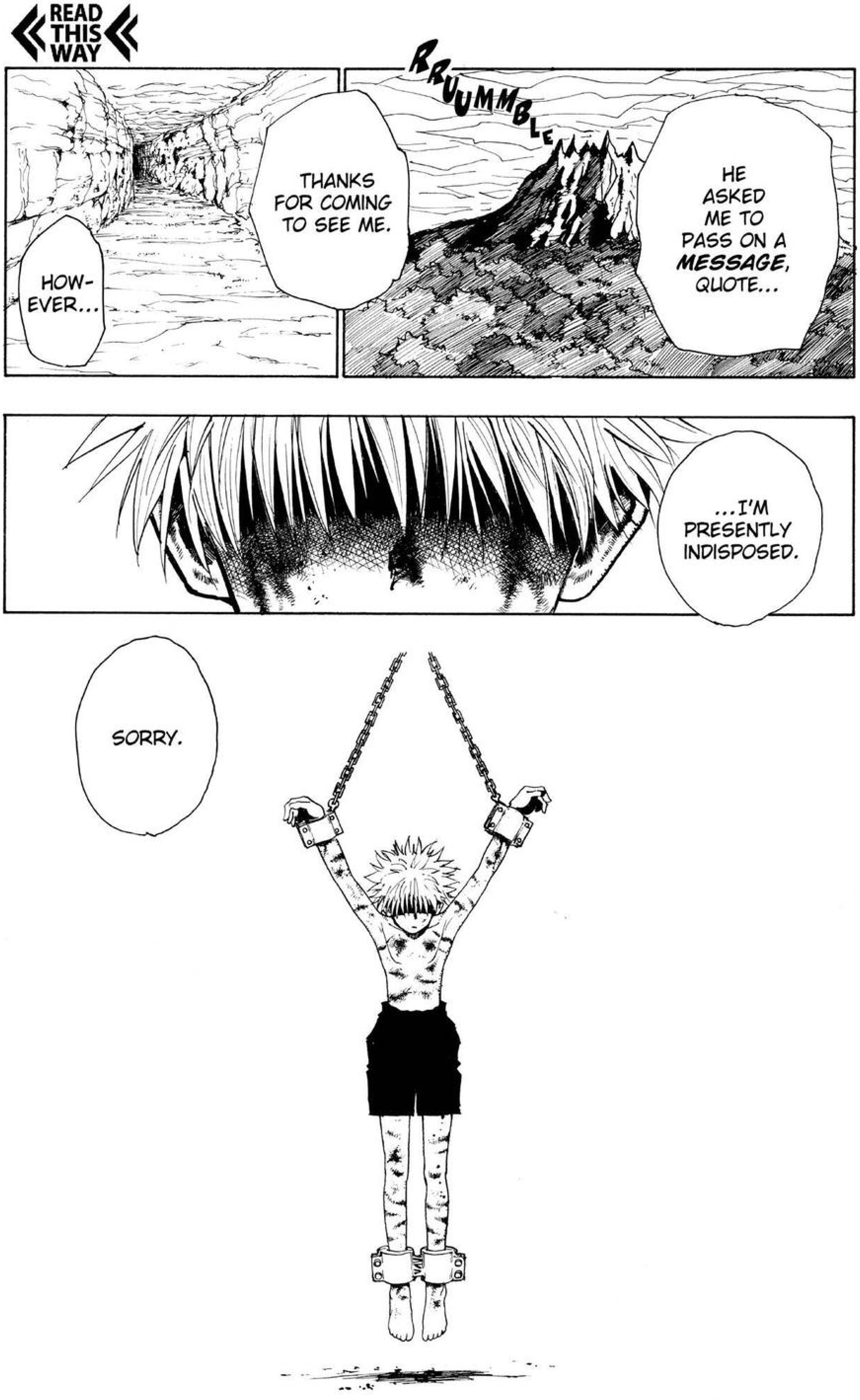

PWAM

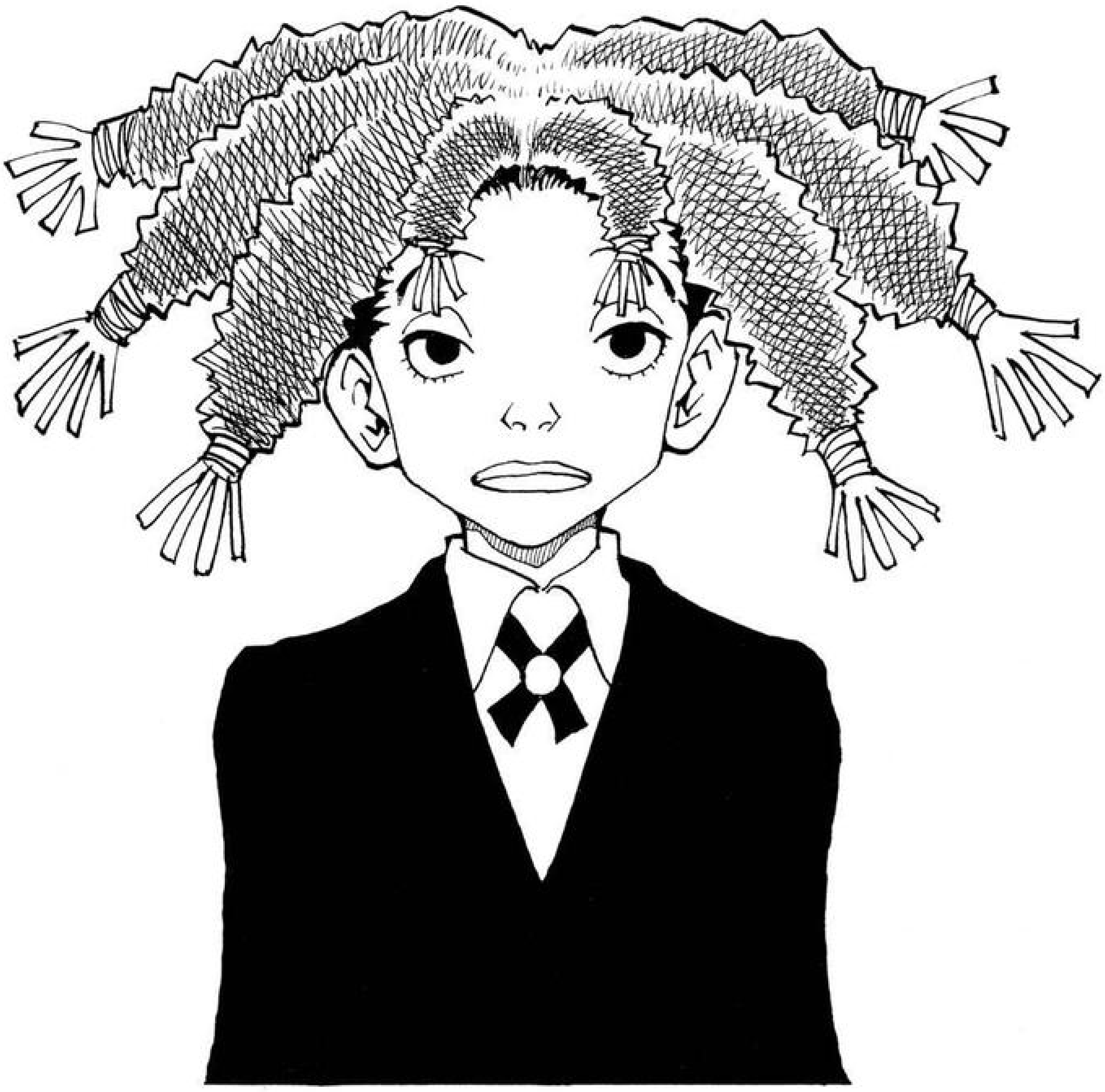



WE SIMPLY …
WISS
…CAN'T HAVE THE HIRED HELP TAKING SUCH LIBERTIES.



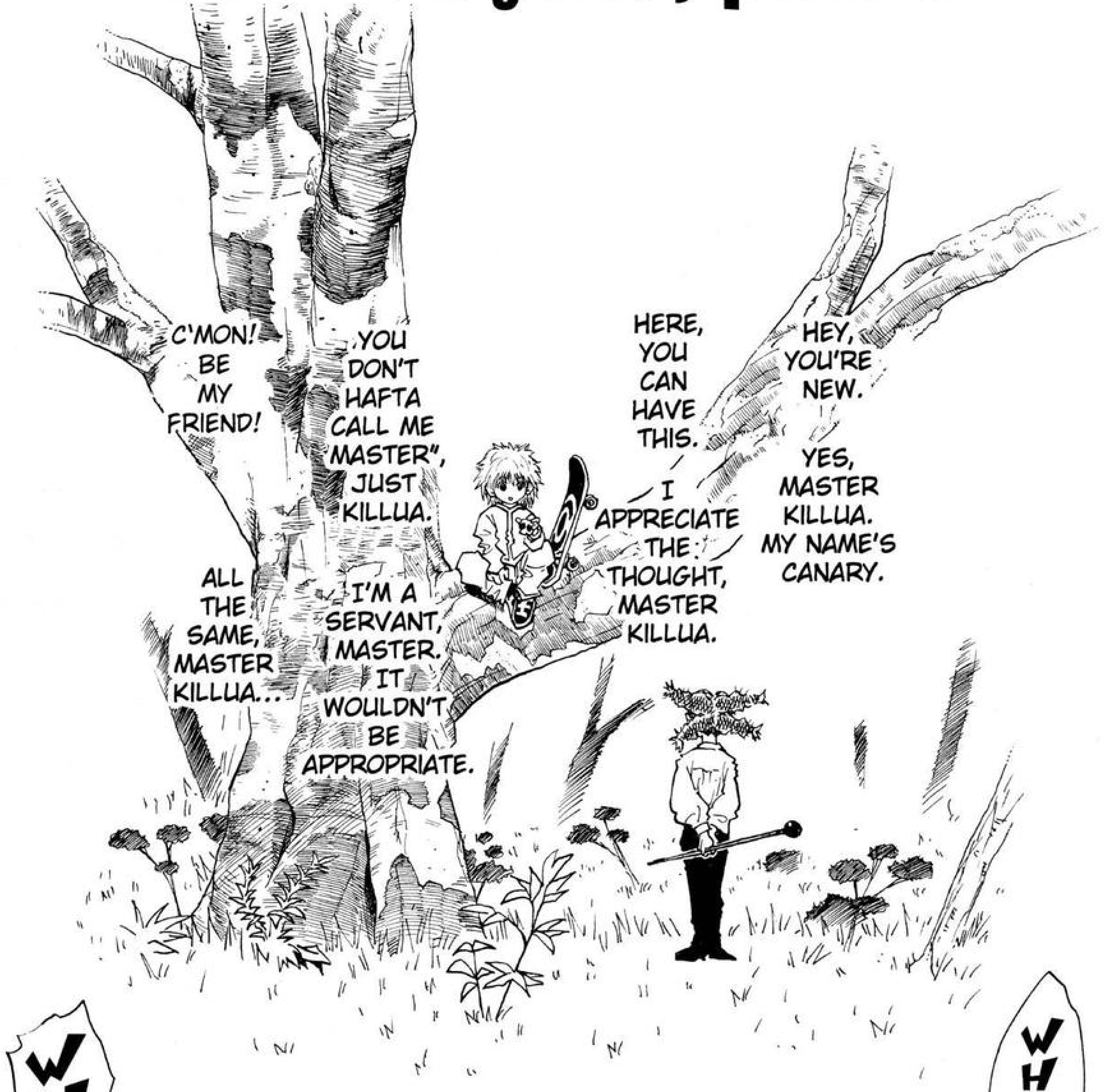

KWEEN
SHE'S STILL A BLOODY *APPRENTICE*, WITH...
...A *POOR UNDERSTANDING* OF THE *FAMILY DYNAMIC.*
KWEEN
YOU'RE *GON*, AREN'T YOU? ILLUMI'S MENTIONED YOU.
KIL IS AWARE THAT YOU'VE BEEN ON THE PREMISES FOR THE PAST THREE WEEKS.

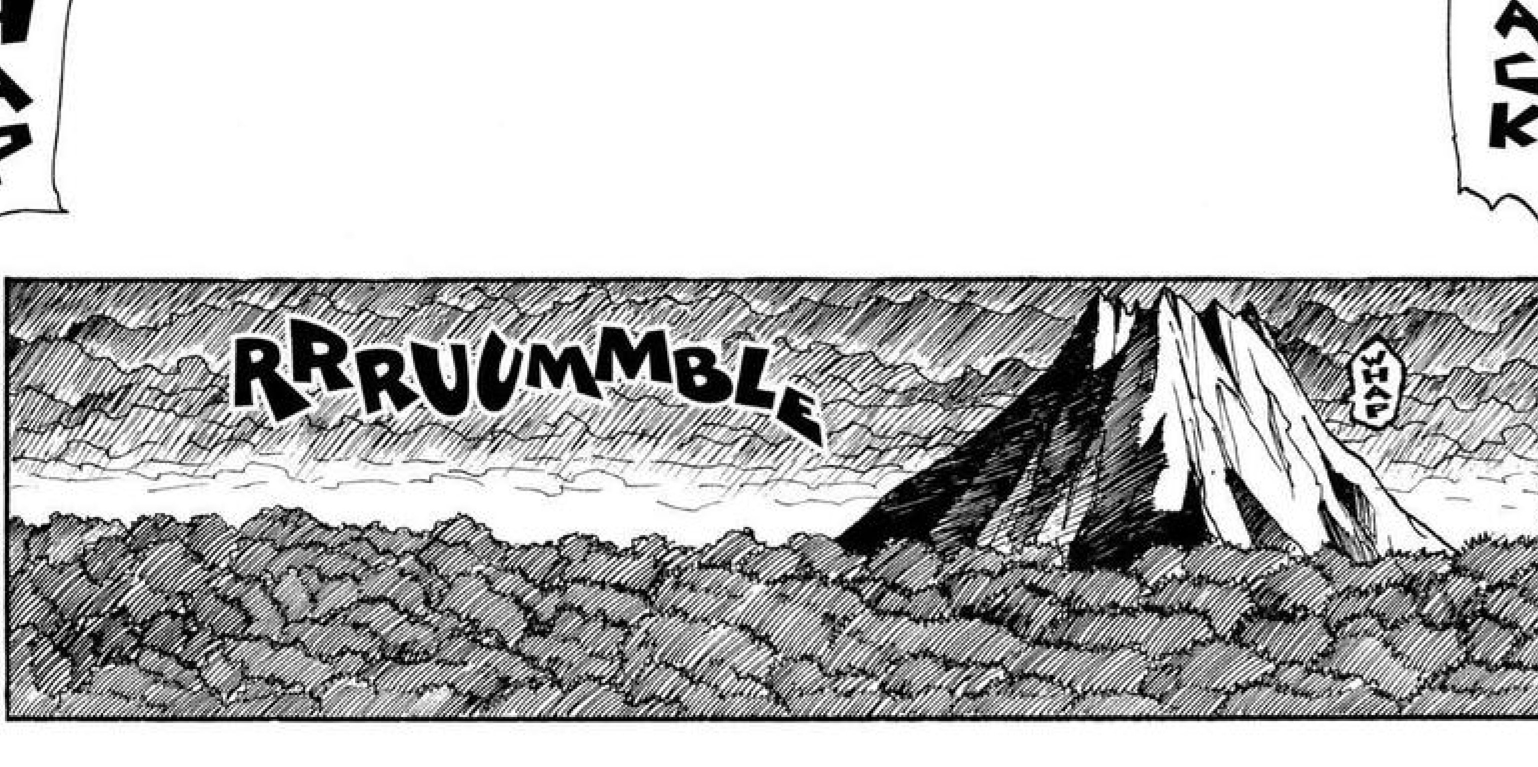

READ THIS WAY
RRUUMMBLE
HE ASKED ME TO PASS ON A ***MESSAGE***, QUOTE...
THANKS FOR COMING TO SEE ME.
HOW-EVER...
...I'M PRESENTLY INDISPOSED.
SORRY.

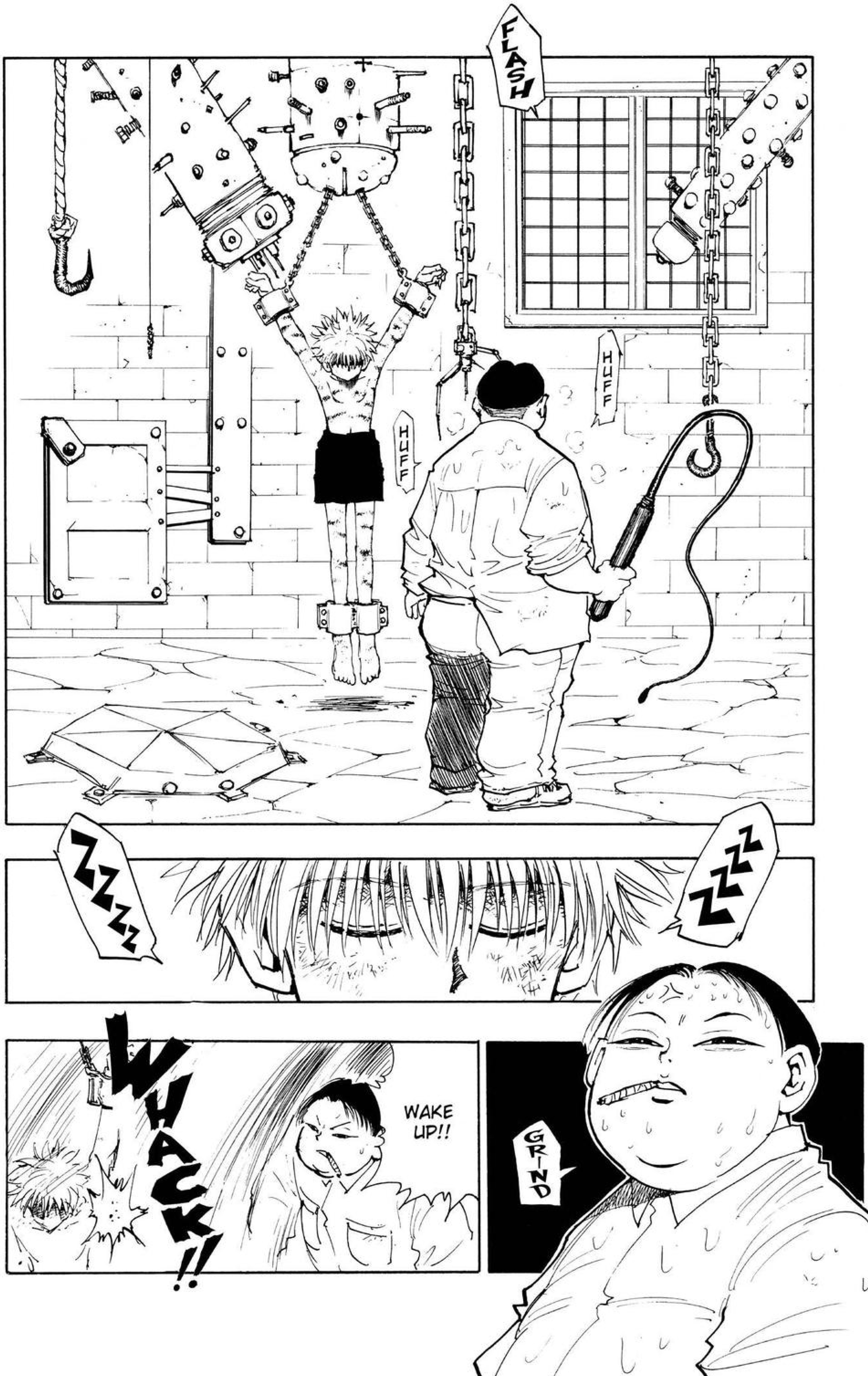


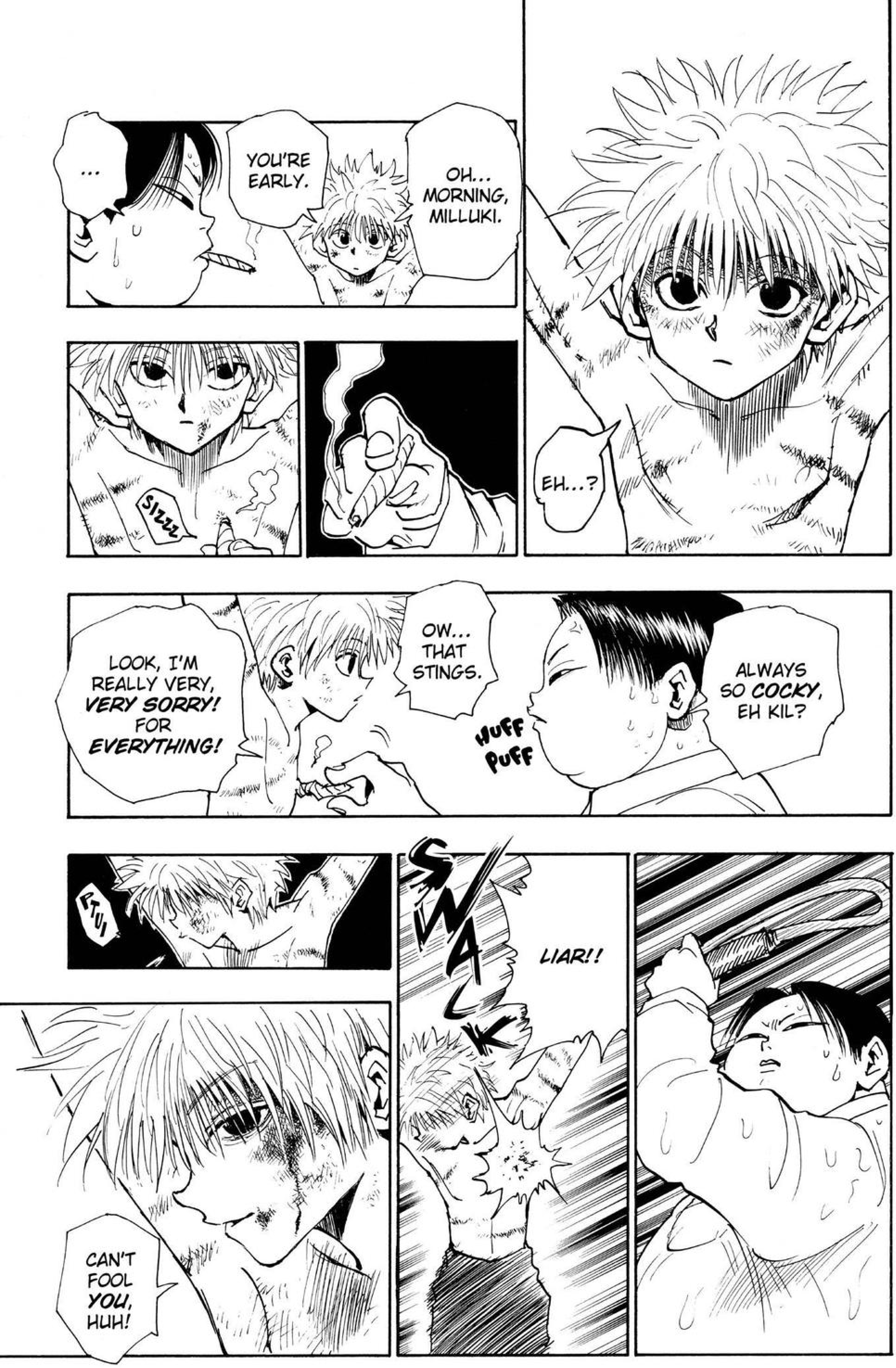
Chapter 42

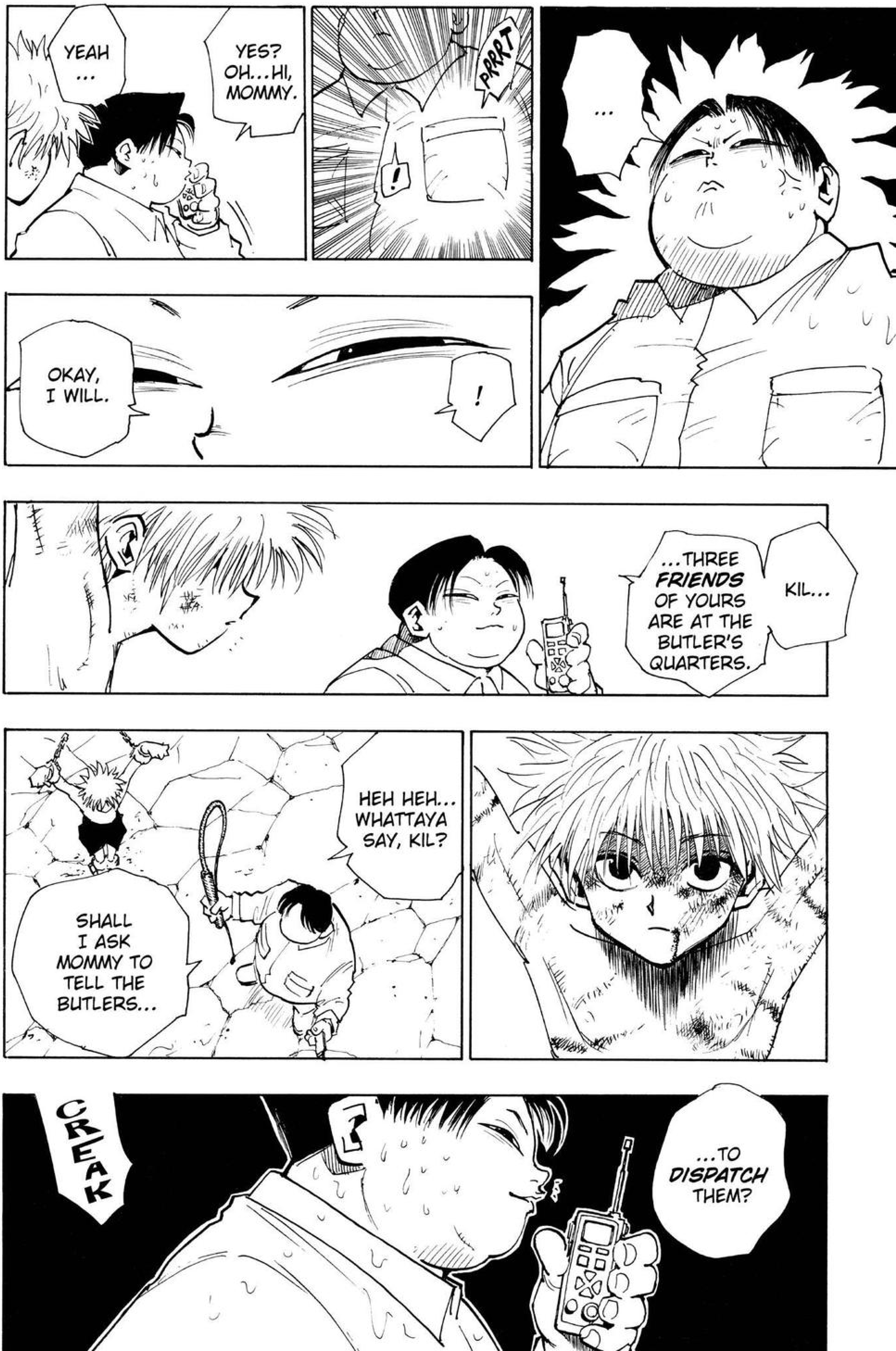
The Zoldycks, part 3

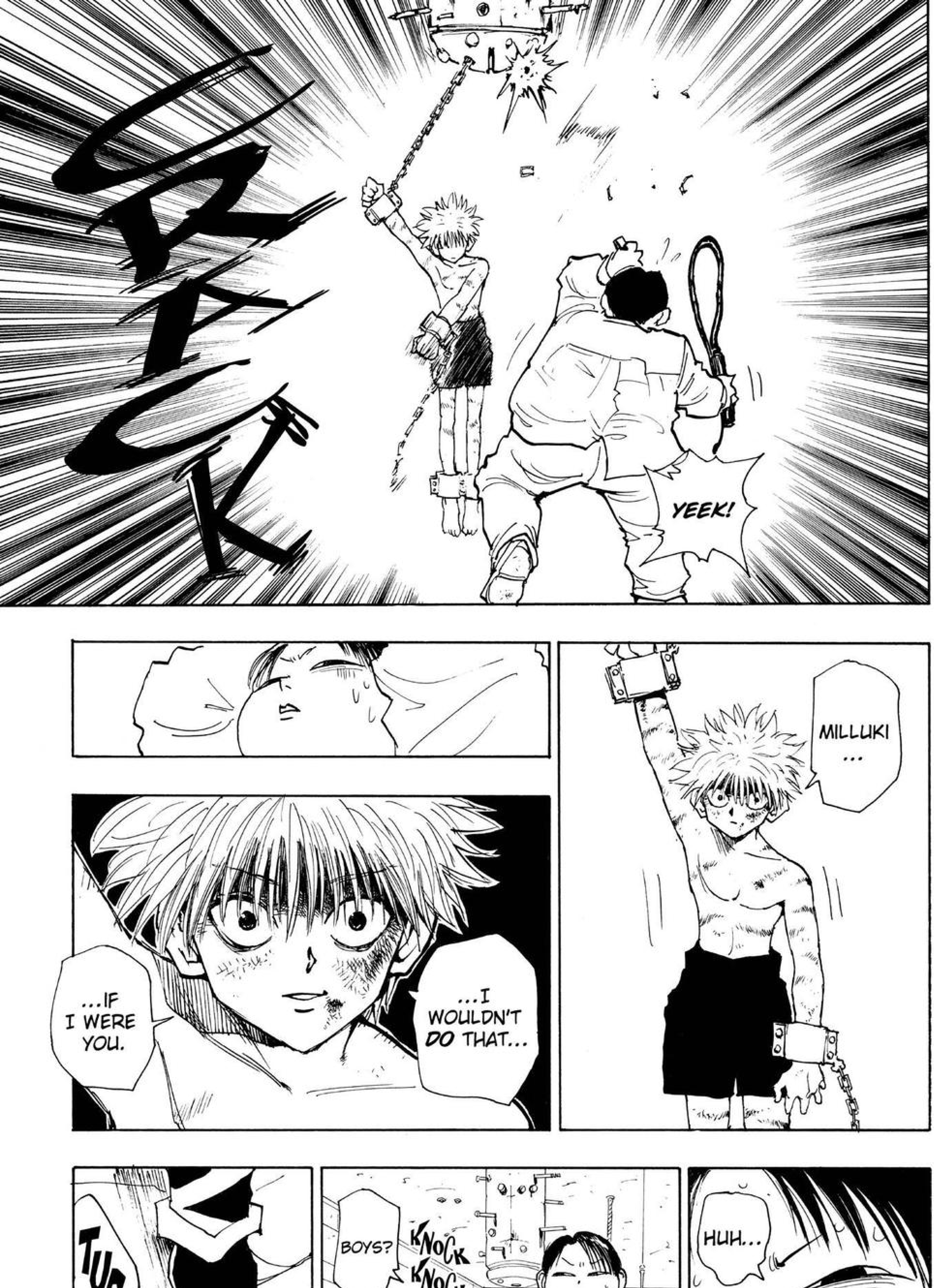

HEY, YOU'RE NEW.
YES, MASTER KILLUA. MY NAME'S CANARY.
HERE, YOU CAN HAVE THIS.
I APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT, MASTER KILLUA.
YOU DON'T HAFTA CALL ME MASTER", JUST KILLUA.
I'M A SERVANT, MASTER. IT WOULDN'T BE APPROPRIATE.
C'MON! BE MY FRIEND!
ALL THE SAME, MASTER KILLUA...
WHACK
WHAP

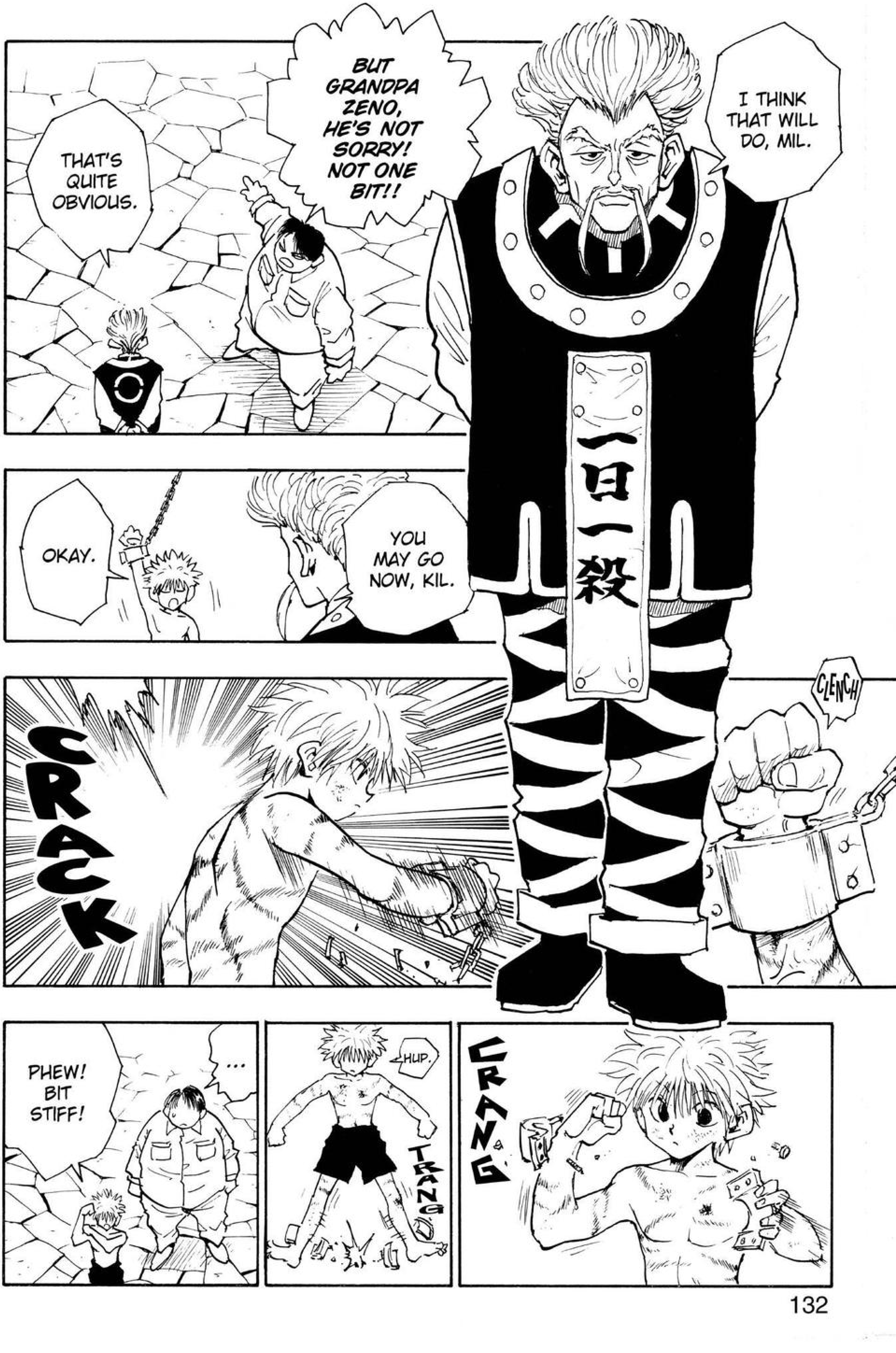

RRRUUMMBLE
WHAP


FLASH
HUFF
HUFF
ZZZZ
ZZZZ
GRIND
WAKE UP!!
WHACK!!

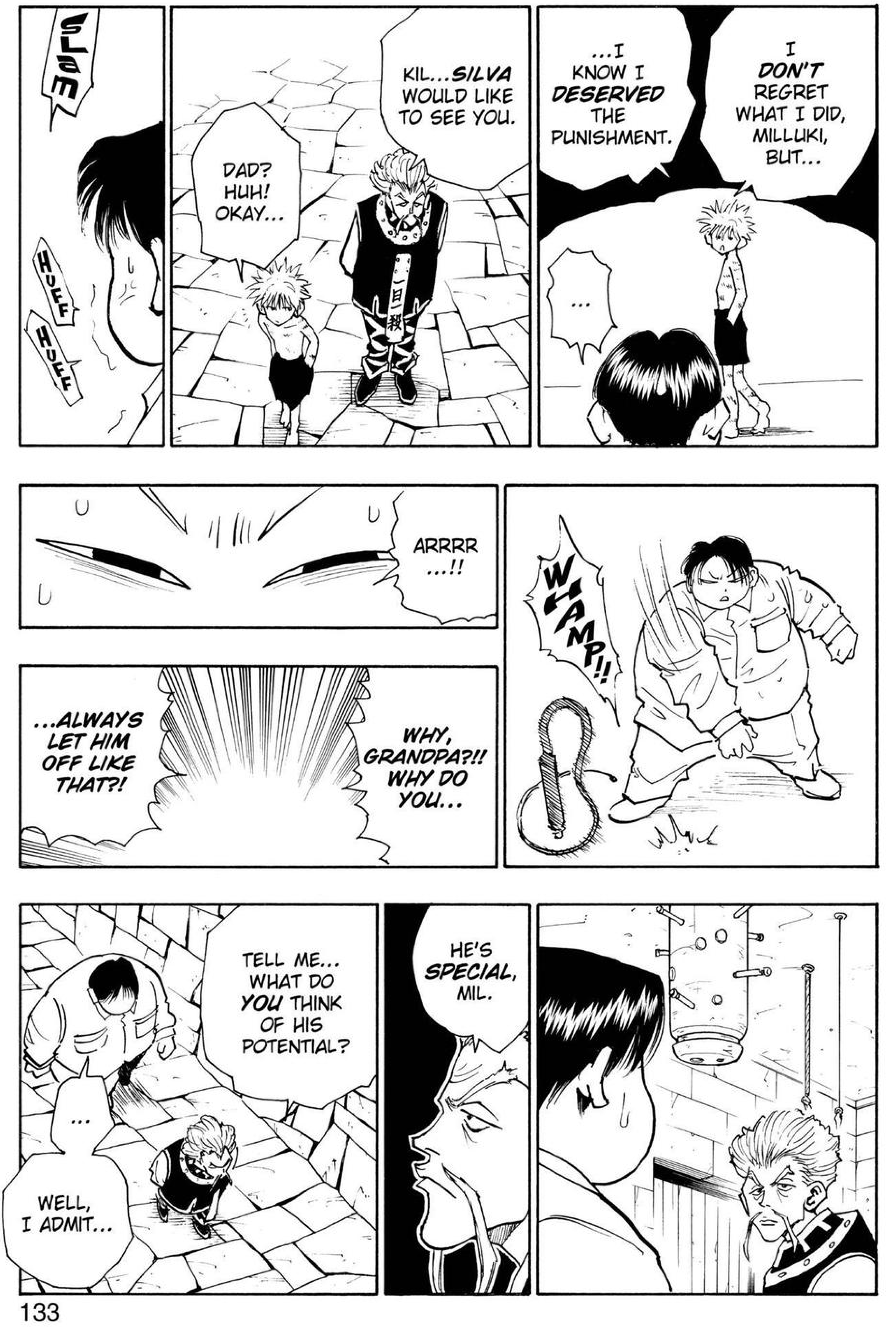

OH... MORNING, MILLUKI.
YOU'RE EARLY.
...
SIZZZ
EH...?
ALWAYS SO **COCKY**, EH KIL?
HUFF PUFF
OW... THAT STINGS.
LOOK, I'M REALLY VERY, ***VERY SORRY!*** FOR ***EVERYTHING!***
LIAR!!
SWACK
PTUI
CAN'T FOOL ***YOU***, HUH!

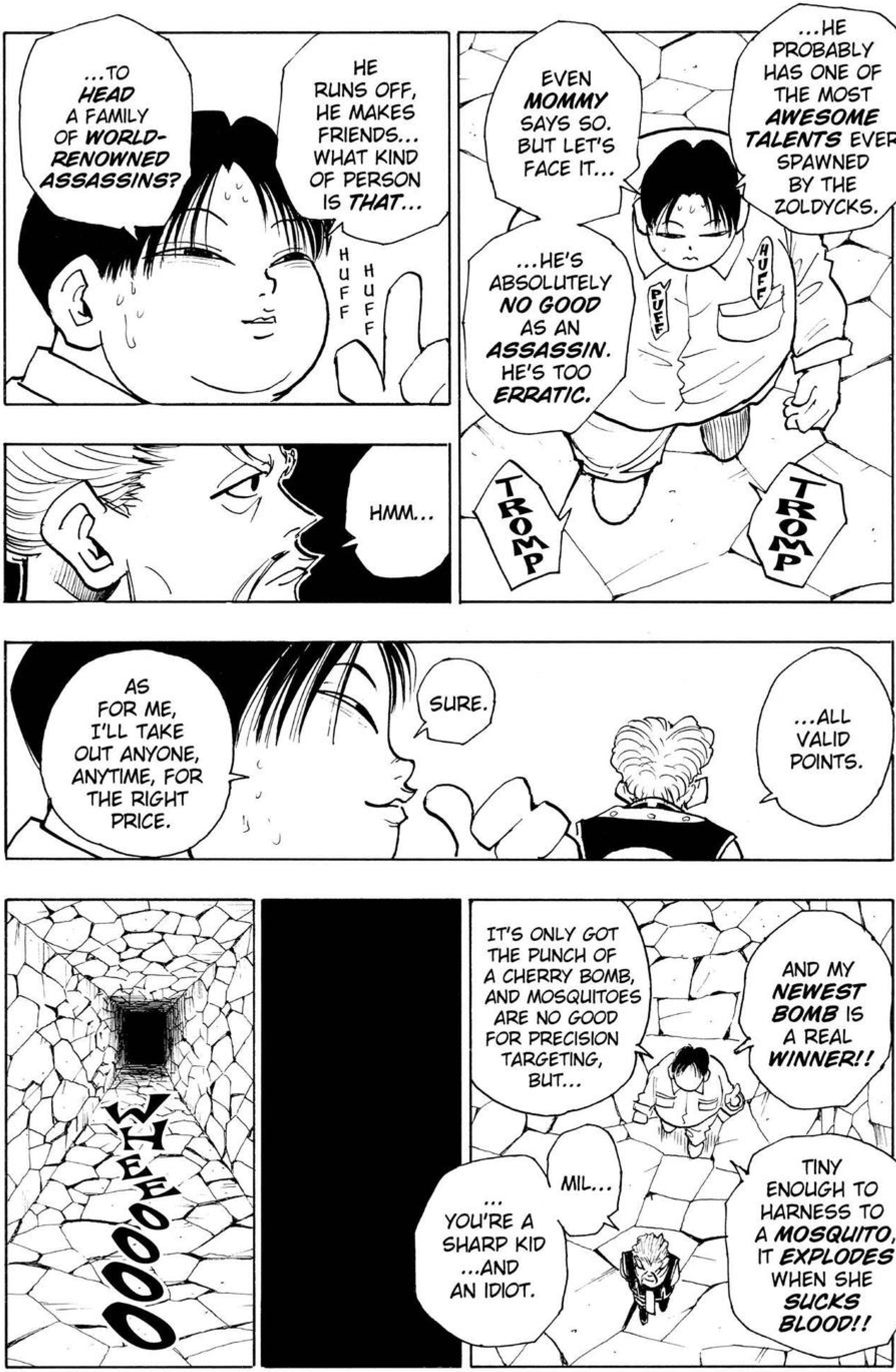

…
PRRRT
!
YES? OH…HI, MOMMY.
YEAH …
!
OKAY, I WILL.
KIL…
…THREE FRIENDS OF YOURS ARE AT THE BUTLER'S QUARTERS.
HEH HEH… WHATTAYA SAY, KIL?
SHALL I ASK MOMMY TO TELL THE BUTLERS…
…TO DISPATCH THEM?
CREAK

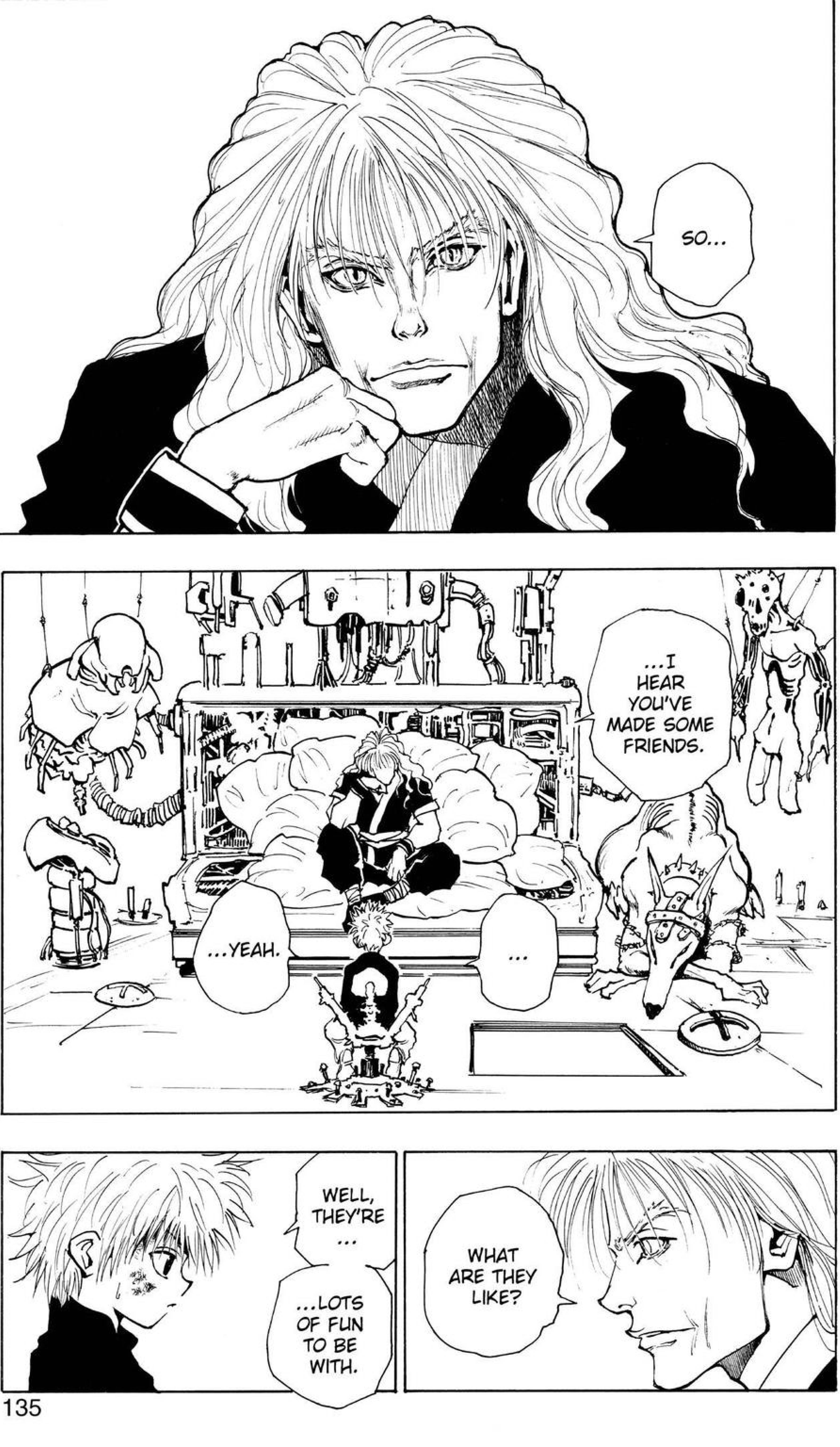

CRACK
YEEK!
MILLUKI ...
...I WOULDN'T DO THAT...
...IF I WERE YOU.
HUH...
KNOCK KNOCK
BOYS?
TUP

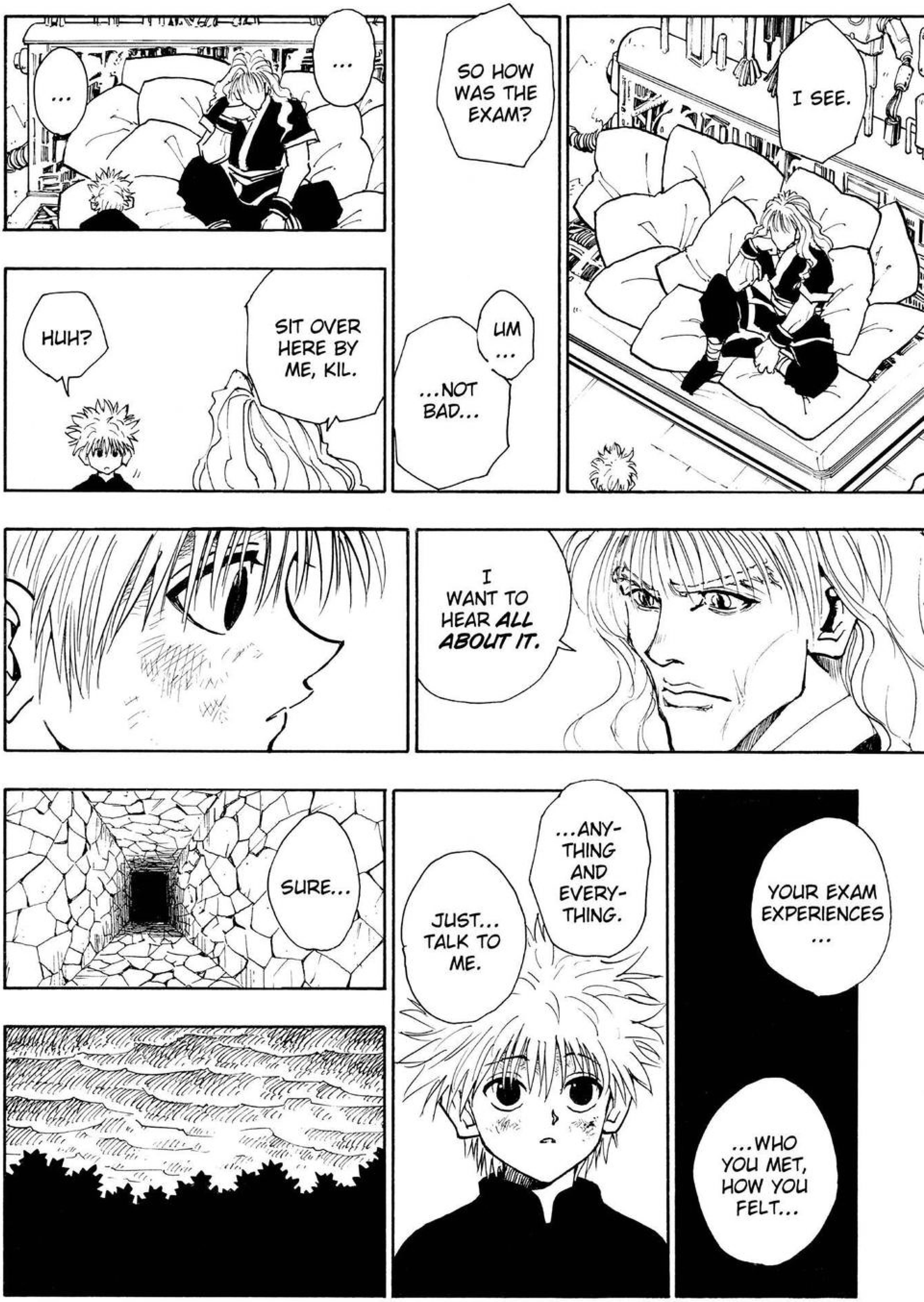

BUT GRANDPA ZENO, HE'S NOT SORRY! NOT ONE BIT!!
THAT'S QUITE OBVIOUS.
I THINK THAT WILL DO, MIL.
一日一殺
YOU MAY GO NOW, KIL.
OKAY.
CLENCH
CRACK
CRANG
HUP.
TRANG
...
PHEW! BIT STIFF!

READ THIS WAY

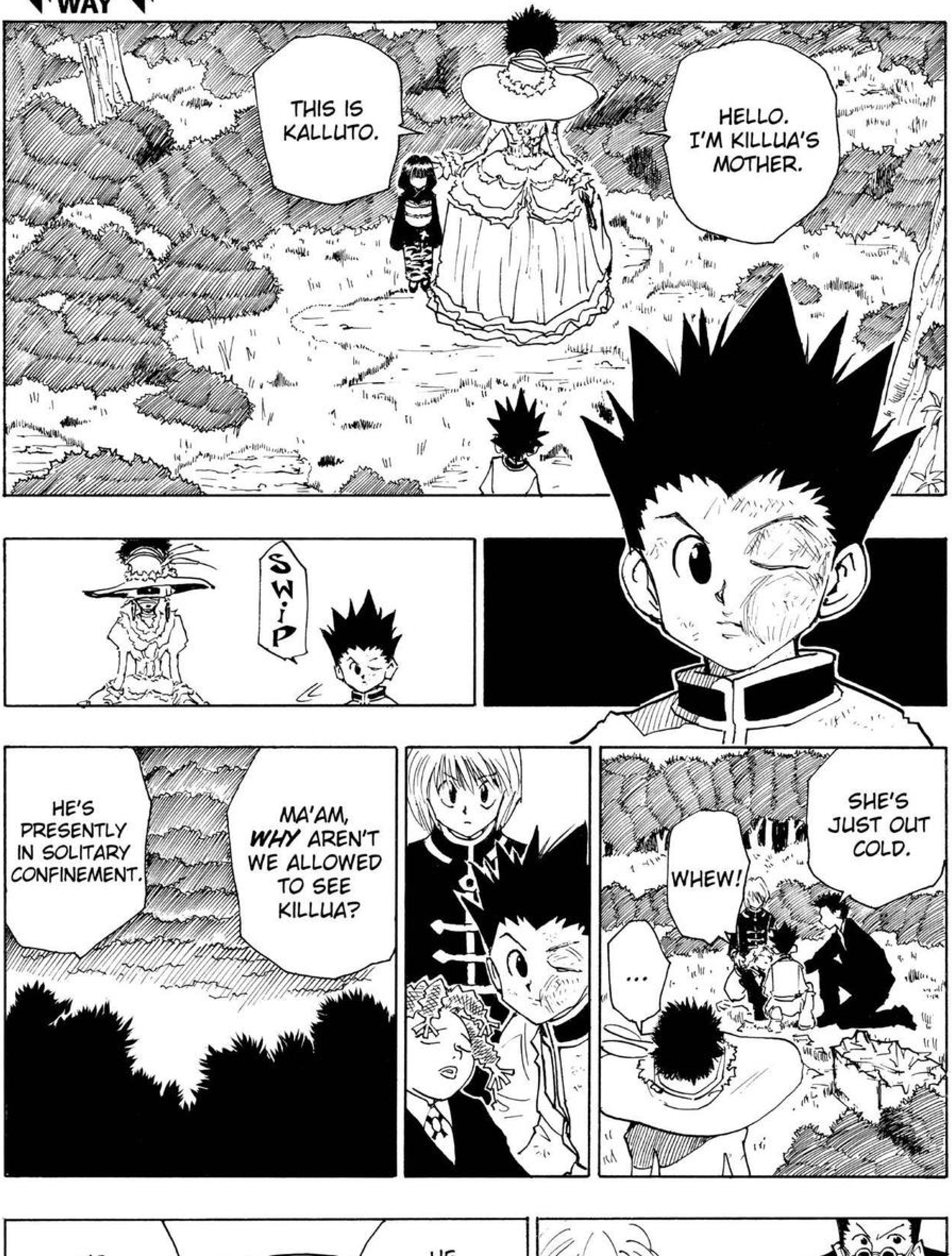

I DON'T REGRET WHAT I DID, MILLUKI, BUT...
...I KNOW I DESERVED THE PUNISHMENT.
...
KIL...SILVA WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU.
DAD? HUH! OKAY...
SLAM
HUFF HUFF
WHAMP!!
ARRRR ...!!
WHY, GRANDPA?!! WHY DO YOU...
...ALWAYS LET HIM OFF LIKE THAT?!
HE'S SPECIAL, MIL.
TELL ME... WHAT DO YOU THINK OF HIS POTENTIAL?
...
WELL, I ADMIT...

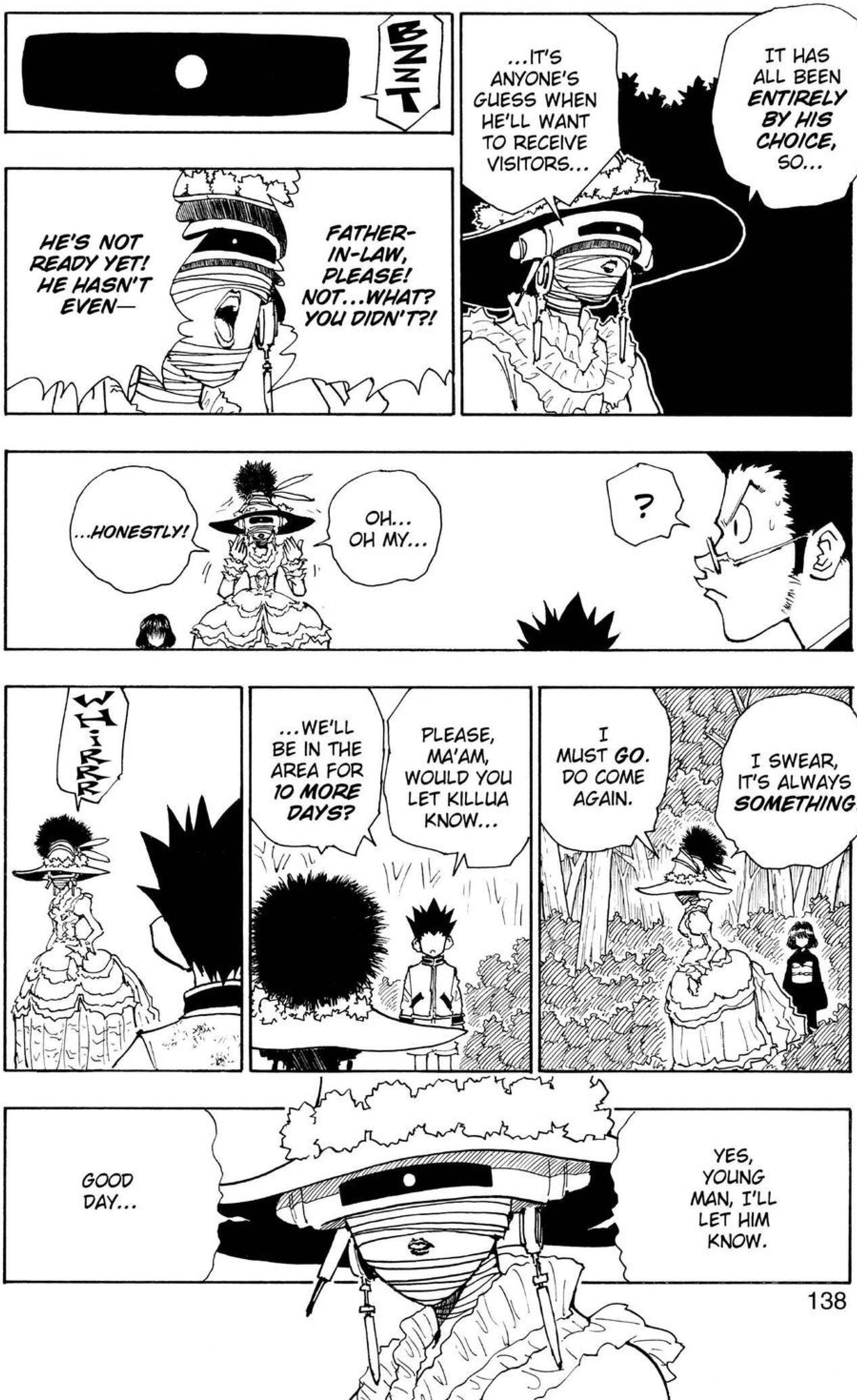

...HE PROBABLY HAS ONE OF THE MOST **AWESOME TALENTS** EVER SPAWNED BY THE ZOLDYCKS.
EVEN **MOMMY** SAYS SO. BUT LET'S FACE IT...
...HE'S ABSOLUTELY **NO GOOD** AS AN **ASSASSIN**. HE'S TOO **ERRATIC.**
HUFF
PUFF
TROMP
TROMP
HE RUNS OFF, HE MAKES FRIENDS... WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS ***THAT...***
...TO ***HEAD*** A FAMILY OF ***WORLD-RENOWNED ASSASSINS?***
HUFF
HUFF
HMM...
...ALL VALID POINTS.
SURE.
AS FOR ME, I'LL TAKE OUT ANYONE, ANYTIME, FOR THE RIGHT PRICE.
AND MY ***NEWEST BOMB*** IS A REAL ***WINNER!!***
IT'S ONLY GOT THE PUNCH OF A CHERRY BOMB, AND MOSQUITOES ARE NO GOOD FOR PRECISION TARGETING, BUT...
TINY ENOUGH TO HARNESS TO A ***MOSQUITO,*** IT ***EXPLODES*** WHEN SHE ***SUCKS BLOOD!!***
MIL...
... YOU'RE A SHARP KID ...AND AN IDIOT.
WHEEOOOO


SO...
...I HEAR YOU'VE MADE SOME FRIENDS.
...
...YEAH.
WHAT ARE THEY LIKE?
WELL, THEY'RE ...
...LOTS OF FUN TO BE WITH.

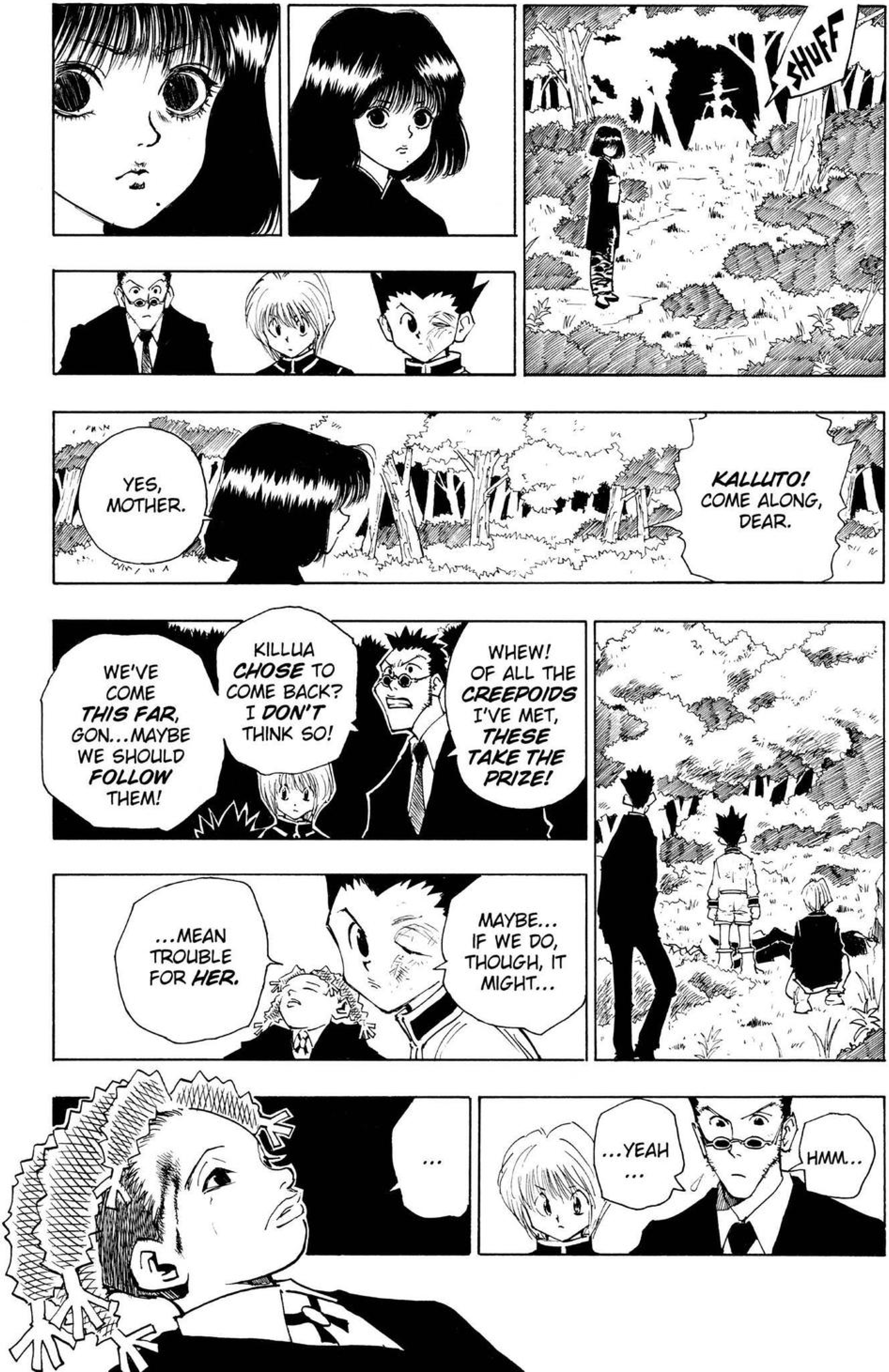

I SEE.
SO HOW WAS THE EXAM?
UM ...
...NOT BAD...
...
...
SIT OVER HERE BY ME, KIL.
HUH?
I WANT TO HEAR ALL ABOUT IT.
YOUR EXAM EXPERIENCES ...
...WHO YOU MET, HOW YOU FELT...
...ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING.
JUST... TALK TO ME.
SURE...

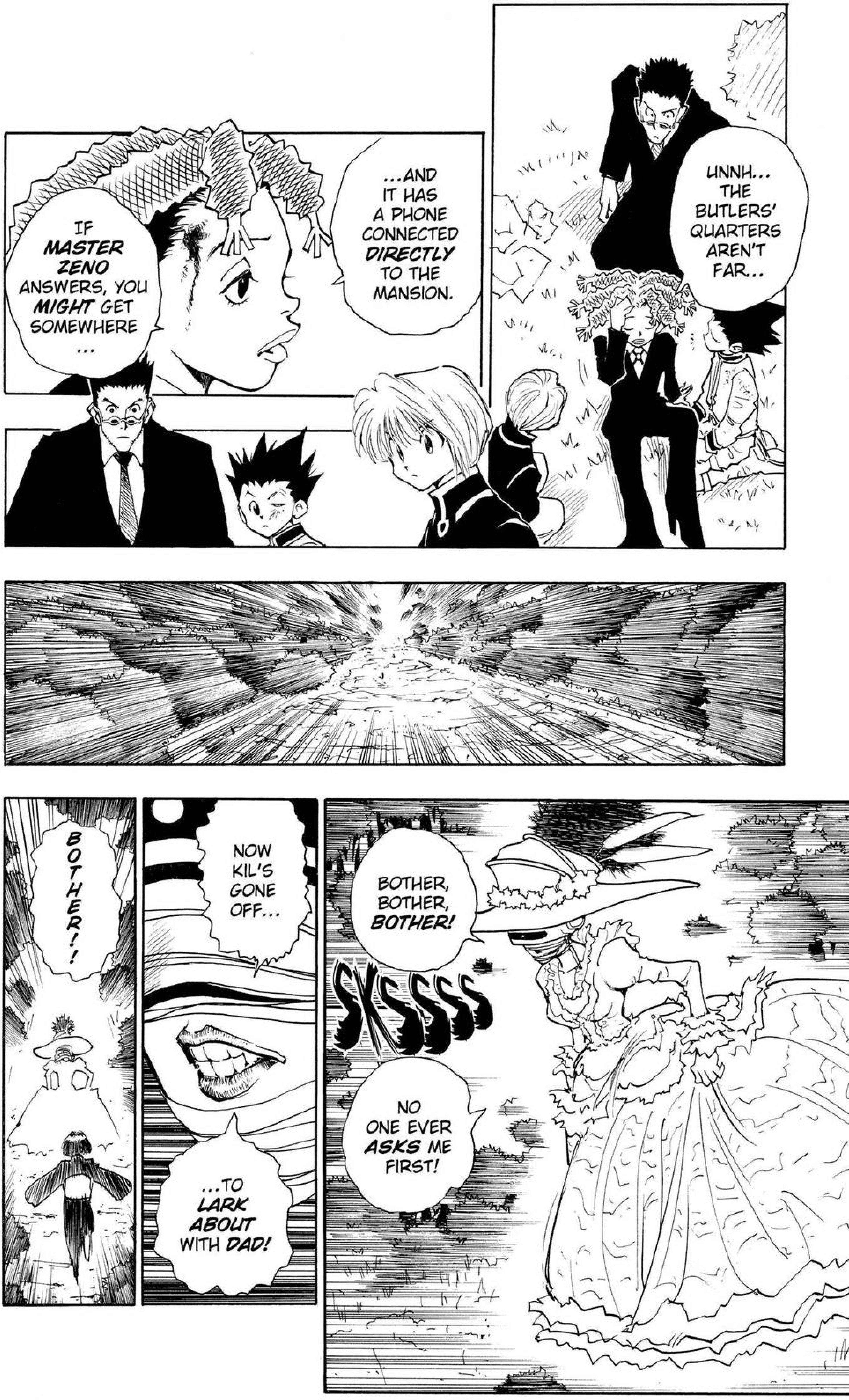
READ THIS WAY

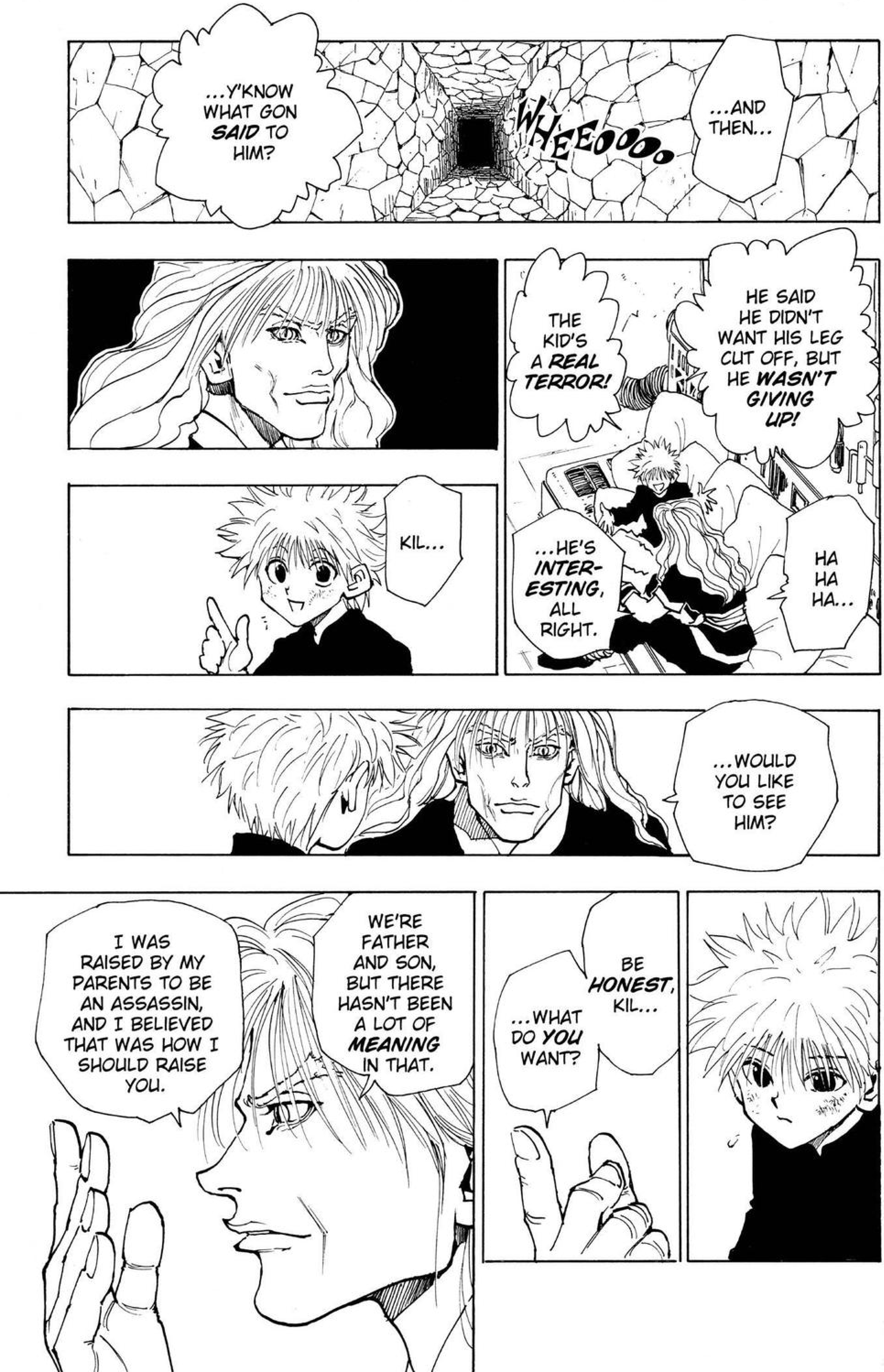

HELLO. I'M KILLUA'S MOTHER.
THIS IS KALLUTO.
SWIP
SHE'S JUST OUT COLD.
WHEW!
...
MA'AM, *WHY* AREN'T WE ALLOWED TO SEE KILLUA?
HE'S PRESENTLY IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.
HE *ATTACKED* HIS BROTHER AND MYSELF, THEN *RAN AWAY.*
HE *CAME BACK,* HOWEVER, WISHING TO REPENT.

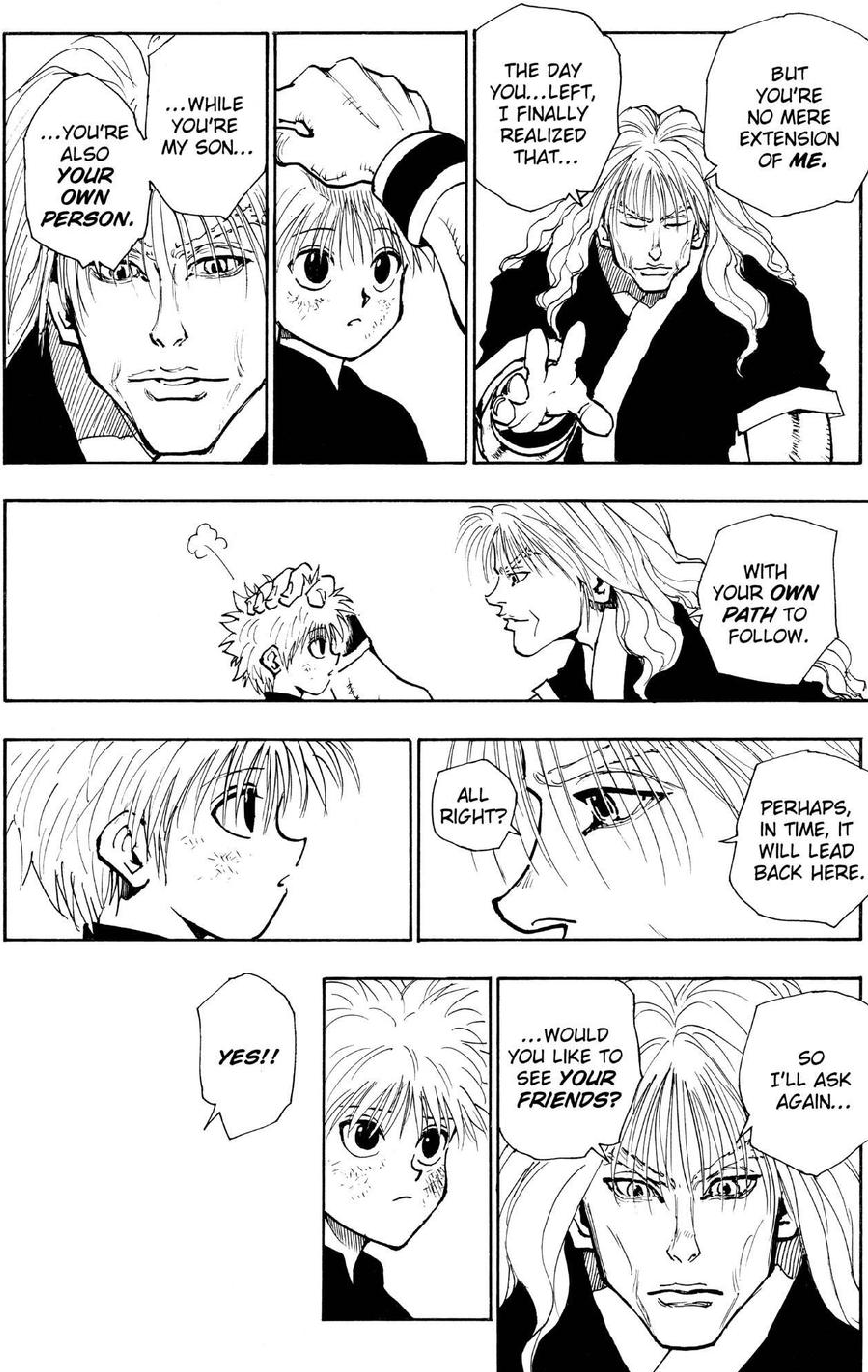

IT HAS ALL BEEN ENTIRELY BY HIS CHOICE, SO...
...IT'S ANYONE'S GUESS WHEN HE'LL WANT TO RECEIVE VISITORS...
BZZT
FATHER-IN-LAW, PLEASE! NOT...WHAT? YOU DIDN'T?!
HE'S NOT READY YET! HE HASN'T EVEN—
?
OH... OH MY...
...HONESTLY!
I SWEAR, IT'S ALWAYS SOMETHING.
I MUST GO. DO COME AGAIN.
PLEASE, MA'AM, WOULD YOU LET KILLUA KNOW...
...WE'LL BE IN THE AREA FOR 10 MORE DAYS?
WHIRRR
YES, YOUNG MAN, I'LL LET HIM KNOW.
GOOD DAY...

READ THIS WAY

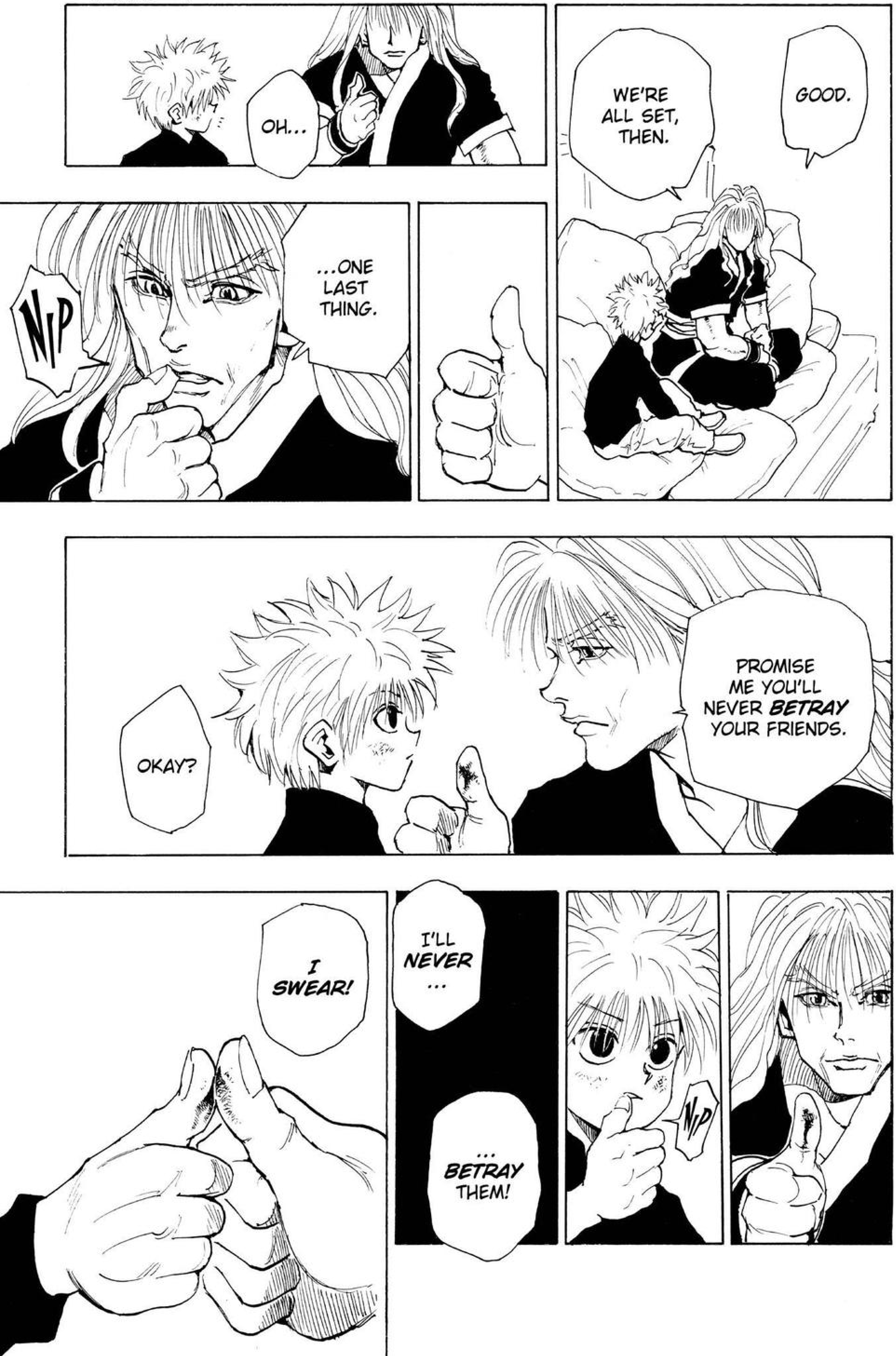

SHUFF
KALLUTO! COME ALONG, DEAR.
YES, MOTHER.
WHEW! OF ALL THE CREEPOIDS I'VE MET, THESE TAKE THE PRIZE!
KILLUA CHOSE TO COME BACK? I DON'T THINK SO!
WE'VE COME THIS FAR, GON...MAYBE WE SHOULD FOLLOW THEM!
MAYBE... IF WE DO, THOUGH, IT MIGHT...
...MEAN TROUBLE FOR HER.
HMM...
...YEAH ...
...

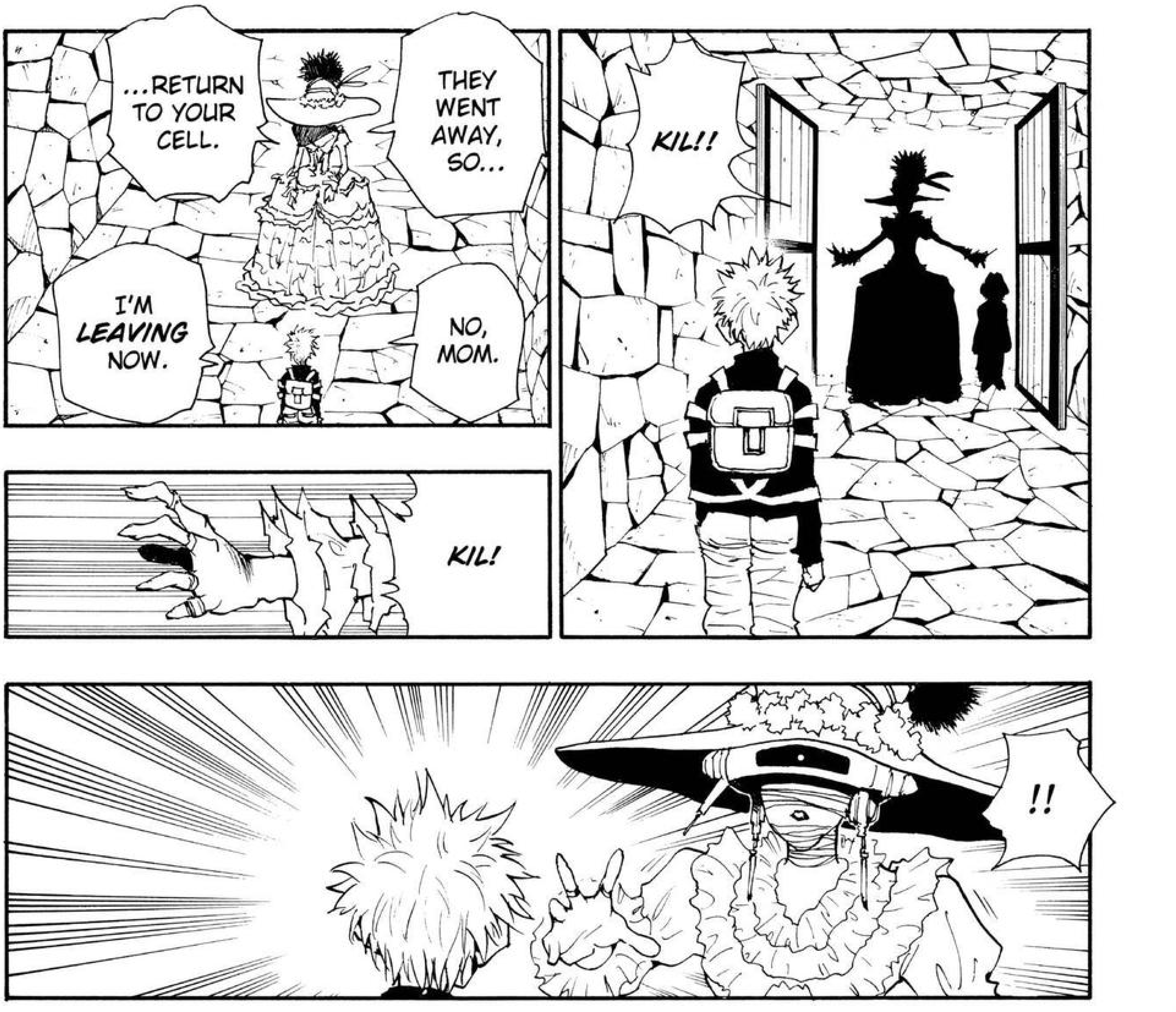

UNNH... THE BUTLERS' QUARTERS AREN'T FAR...
...AND IT HAS A PHONE CONNECTED **DIRECTLY** TO THE MANSION.
IF **MASTER ZENO** ANSWERS, YOU **MIGHT** GET SOMEWHERE ...
BOTHER, BOTHER, **BOTHER!**
SKSSSS
NO ONE EVER **ASKS** ME FIRST!
NOW KIL'S GONE OFF...
...TO **LARK ABOUT** WITH **DAD!**
BOTHER!!

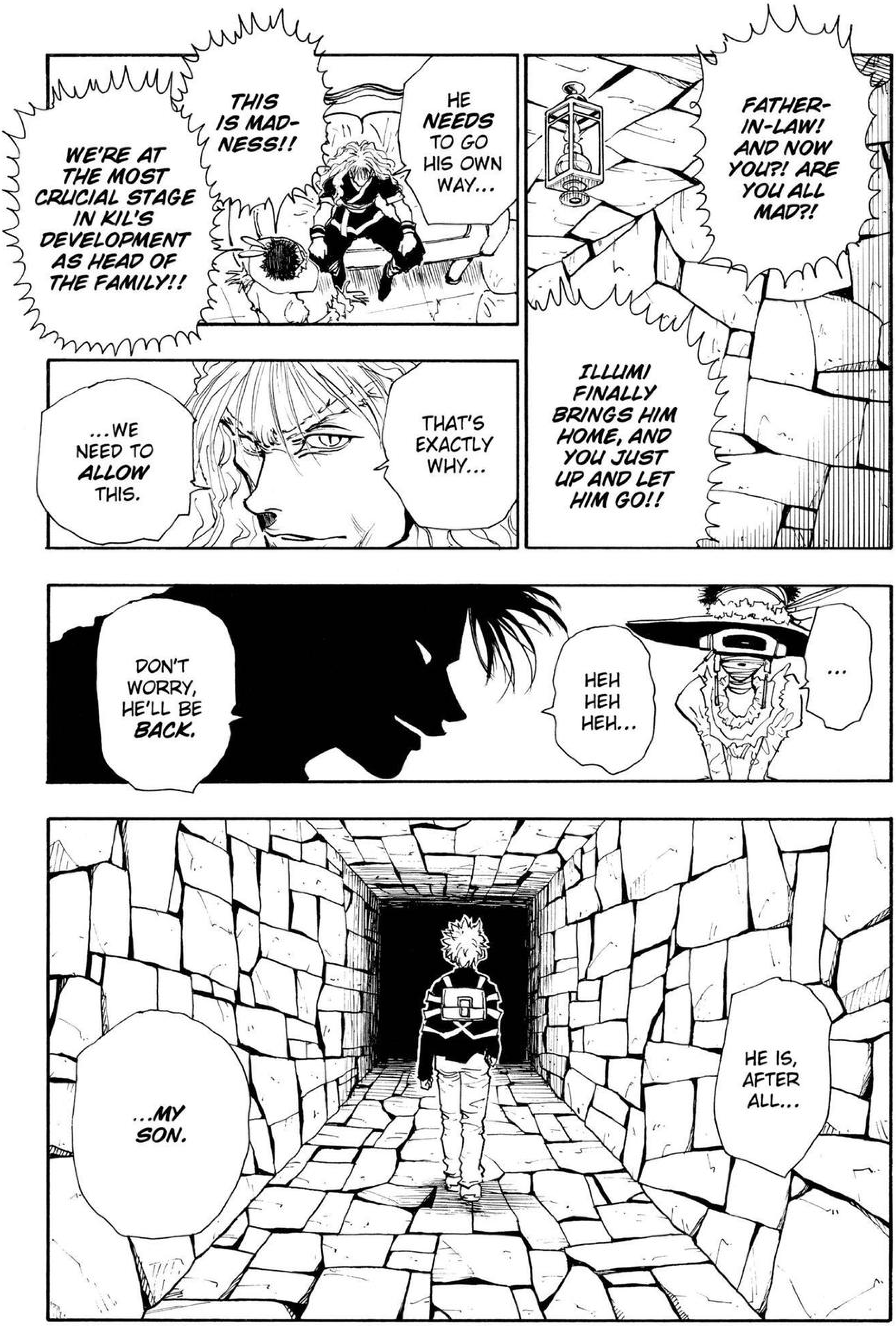

...AND THEN...
WHEEOOOO
...Y'KNOW WHAT GON **SAID** TO HIM?
HE SAID HE DIDN'T WANT HIS LEG CUT OFF, BUT HE **WASN'T GIVING UP!**
THE KID'S A **REAL TERROR!**
HA HA HA...
...HE'S **INTERESTING**, ALL RIGHT.
KIL...
...WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE HIM?
BE **HONEST**, KIL...
...WHAT DO **YOU** WANT?
WE'RE FATHER AND SON, BUT THERE HASN'T BEEN A LOT OF **MEANING** IN THAT.
I WAS RAISED BY MY PARENTS TO BE AN ASSASSIN, AND I BELIEVED THAT WAS HOW I SHOULD RAISE YOU.

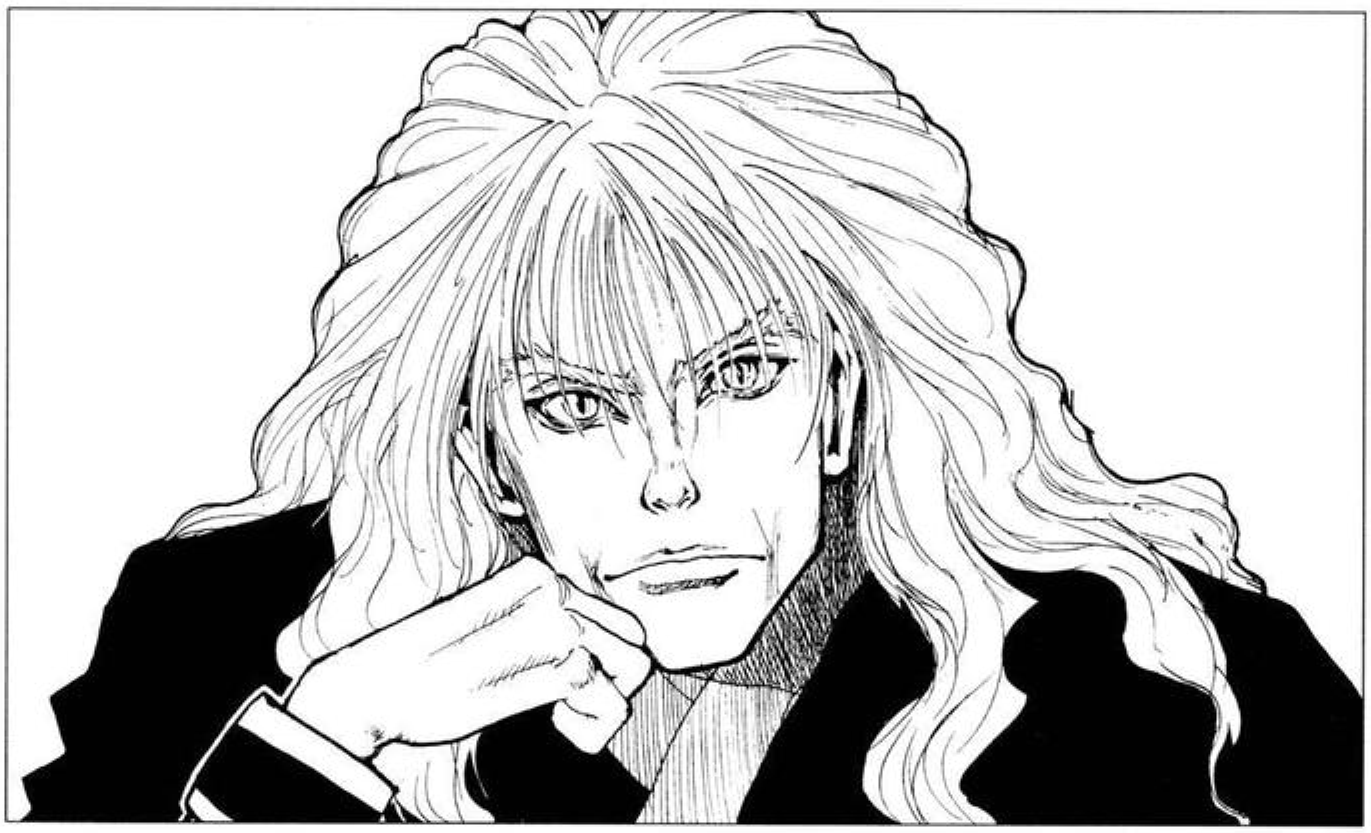

BUT YOU'RE NO MERE EXTENSION OF ME.
THE DAY YOU...LEFT, I FINALLY REALIZED THAT...
...WHILE YOU'RE MY SON...
...YOU'RE ALSO YOUR OWN PERSON.
WITH YOUR OWN PATH TO FOLLOW.
PERHAPS, IN TIME, IT WILL LEAD BACK HERE.
ALL RIGHT?
SO I'LL ASK AGAIN...
...WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE YOUR FRIENDS?
YES!!

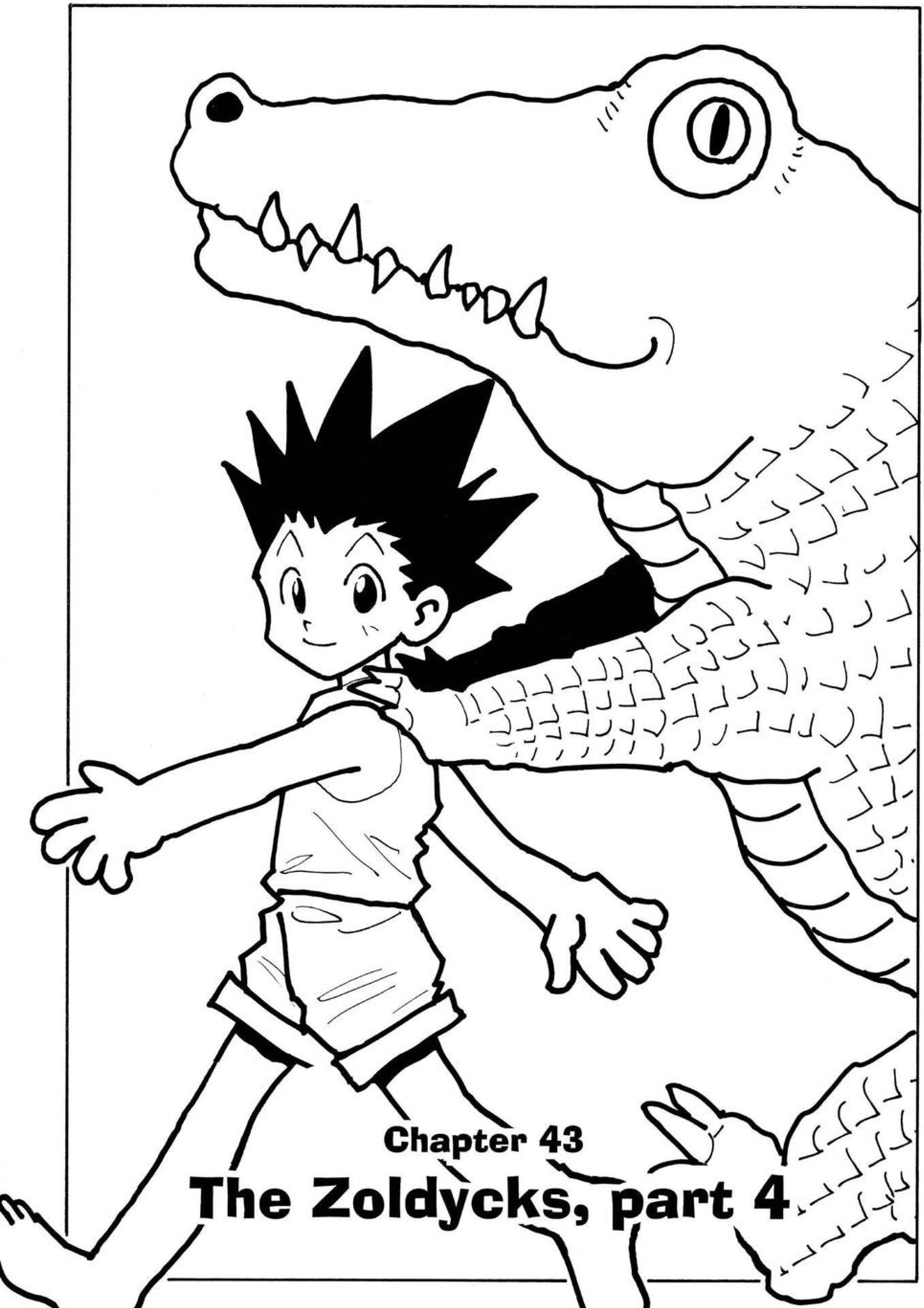
READ THIS WAY


GOOD.
WE'RE ALL SET, THEN.
OH...
...ONE LAST THING.
NIP
PROMISE ME YOU'LL NEVER *BETRAY* YOUR FRIENDS.
OKAY?
NIP
I'LL *NEVER* ...
... *BETRAY* THEM!
I SWEAR!


KIL!!
THEY WENT AWAY, SO...
...RETURN TO YOUR CELL.
NO, MOM.
I'M *LEAVING* NOW.
KIL!
!!
STEP ASIDE.
OH, KIL...
...WHAT A *SPLENDID ICY GLARE* YOU HAVE!!

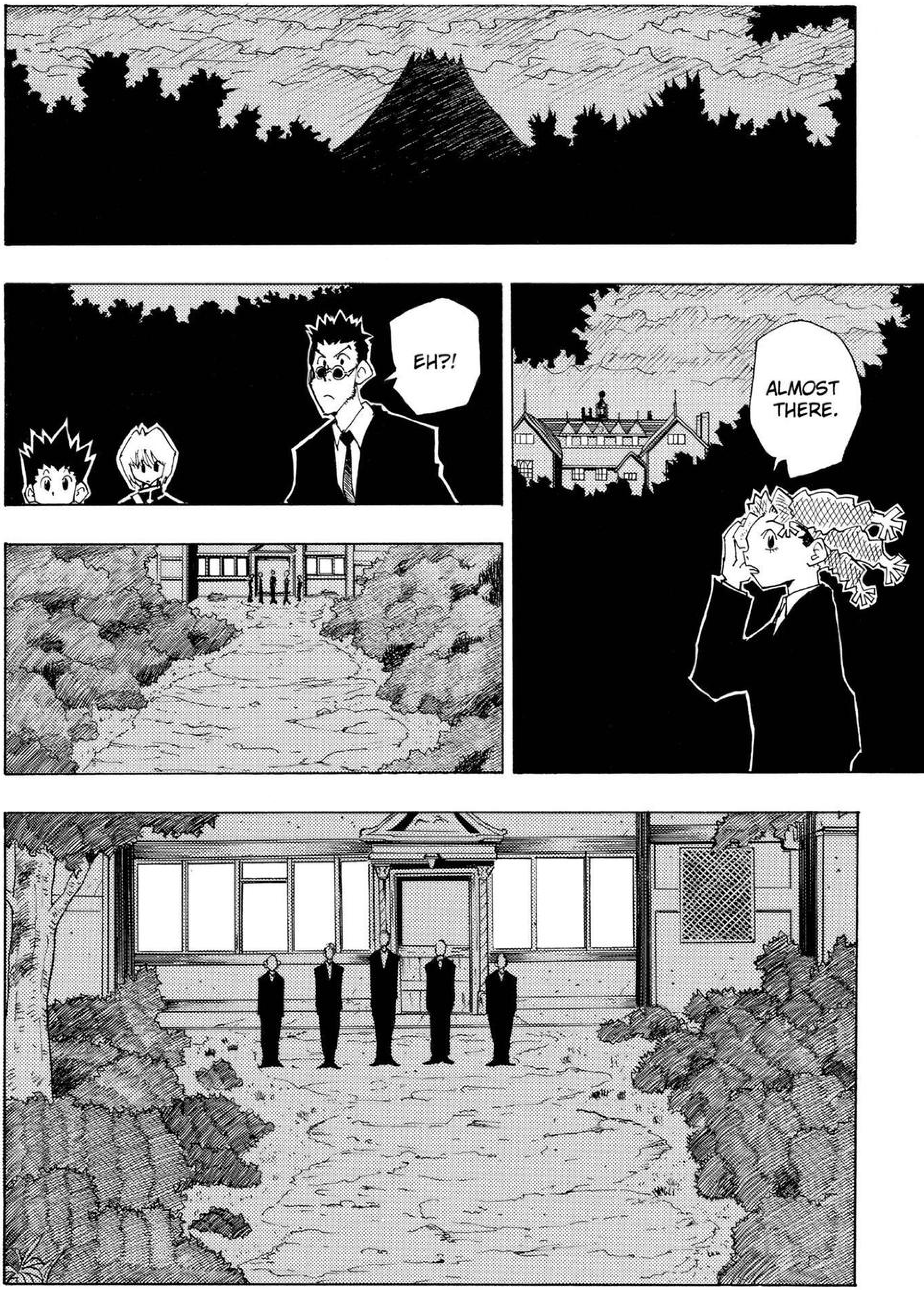

FATHER-IN-LAW! AND NOW YOU?! ARE YOU ALL MAD?!
ILLUMI FINALLY BRINGS HIM HOME, AND YOU JUST UP AND LET HIM GO!!
HE NEEDS TO GO HIS OWN WAY...
THIS IS MADNESS!!
WE'RE AT THE MOST CRUCIAL STAGE IN KIL'S DEVELOPMENT AS HEAD OF THE FAMILY!!
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY...
...WE NEED TO ALLOW THIS.
...
HEH HEH HEH...
DON'T WORRY, HE'LL BE BACK.
HE IS, AFTER ALL...
...MY SON.



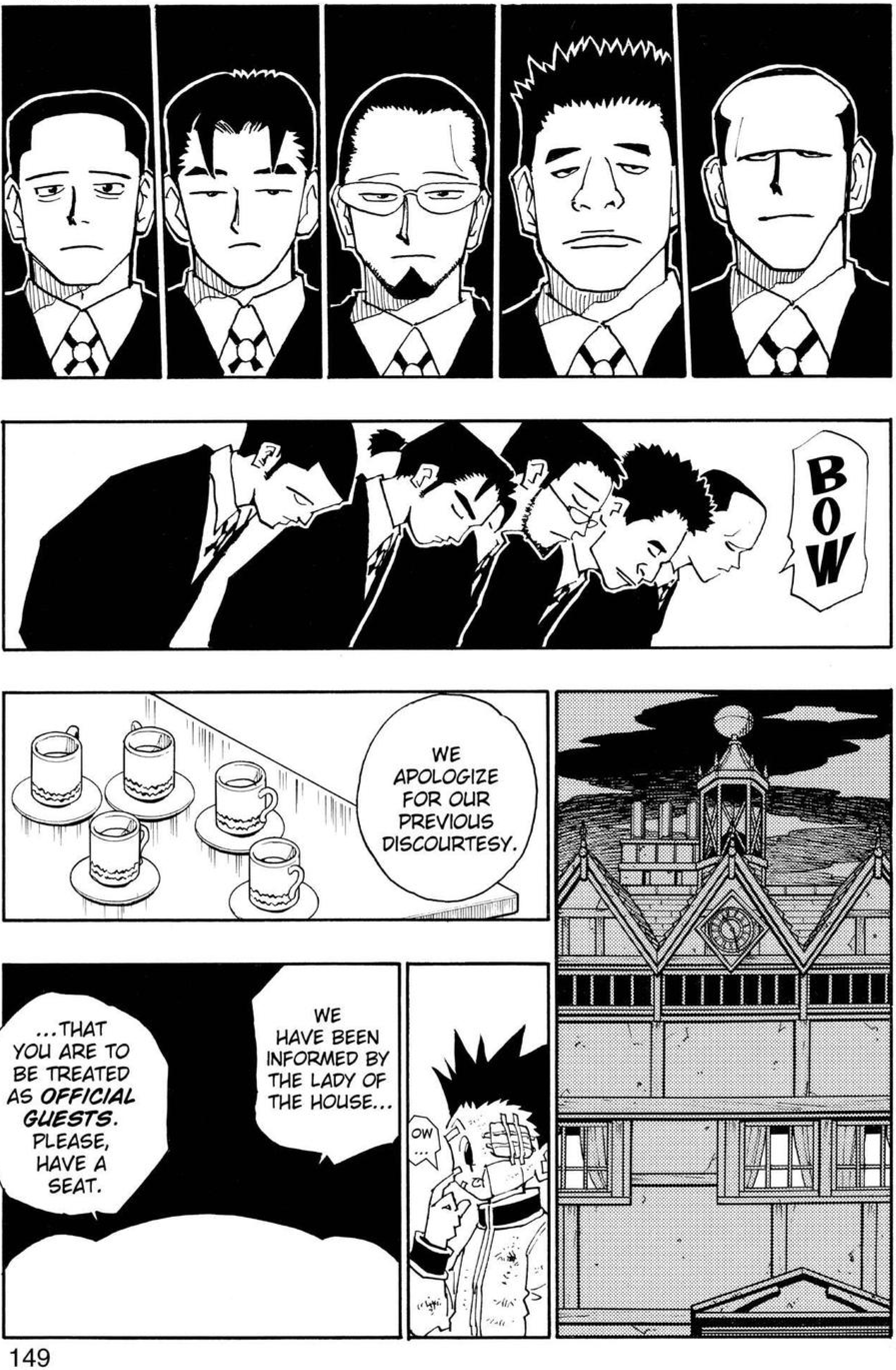


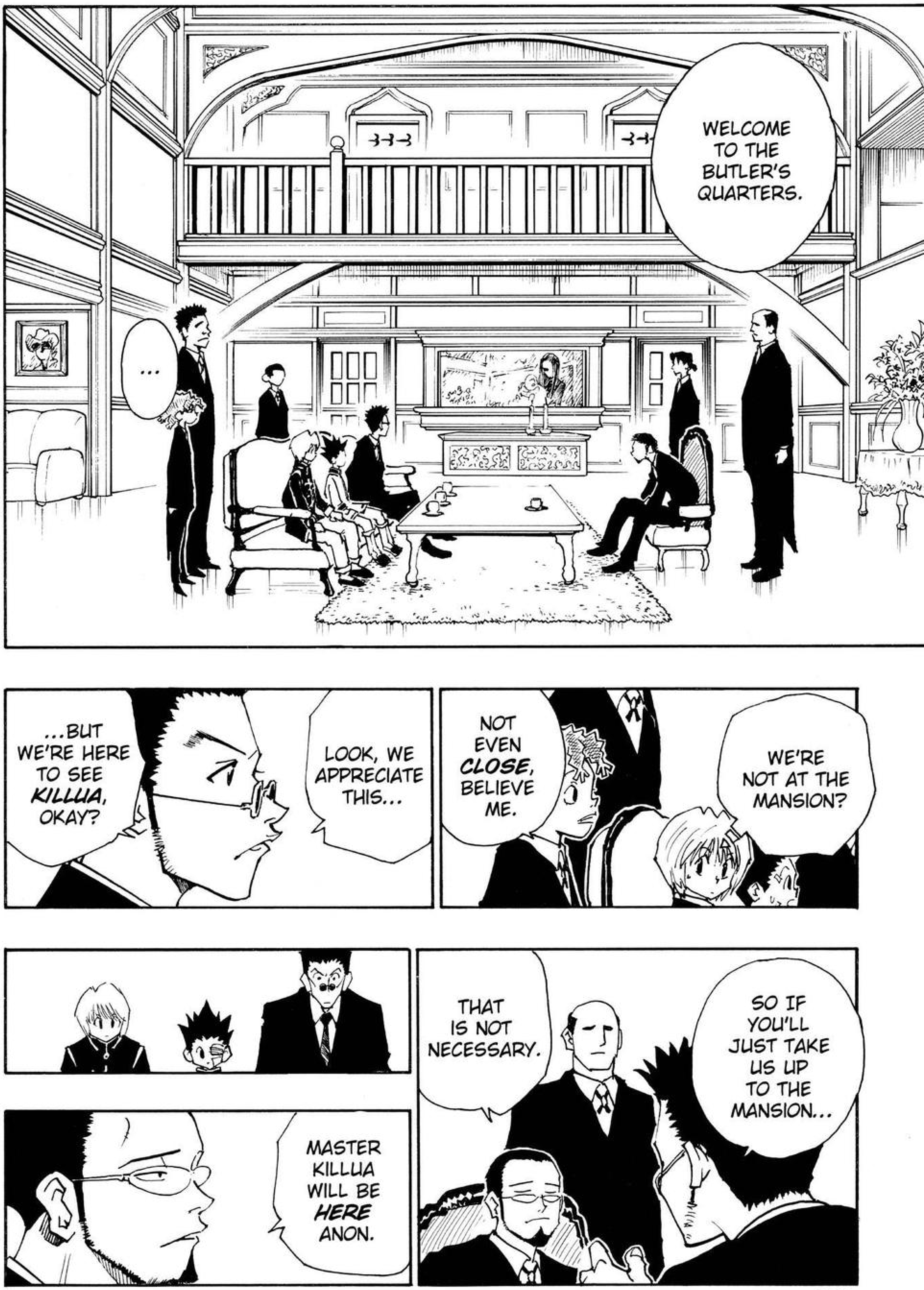
Chapter 43

The Zoldycks, part 4

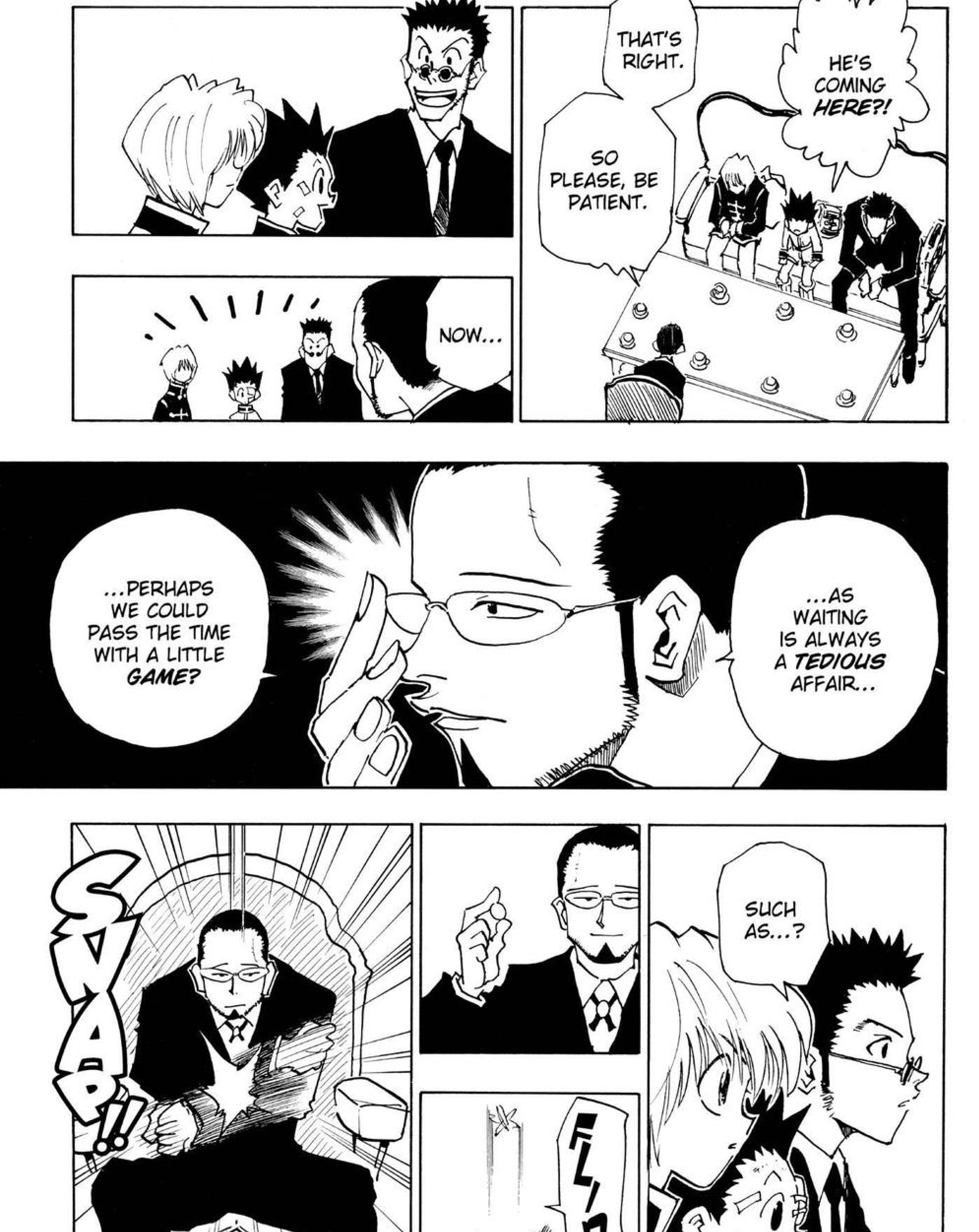

ALMOST THERE.
EH?!

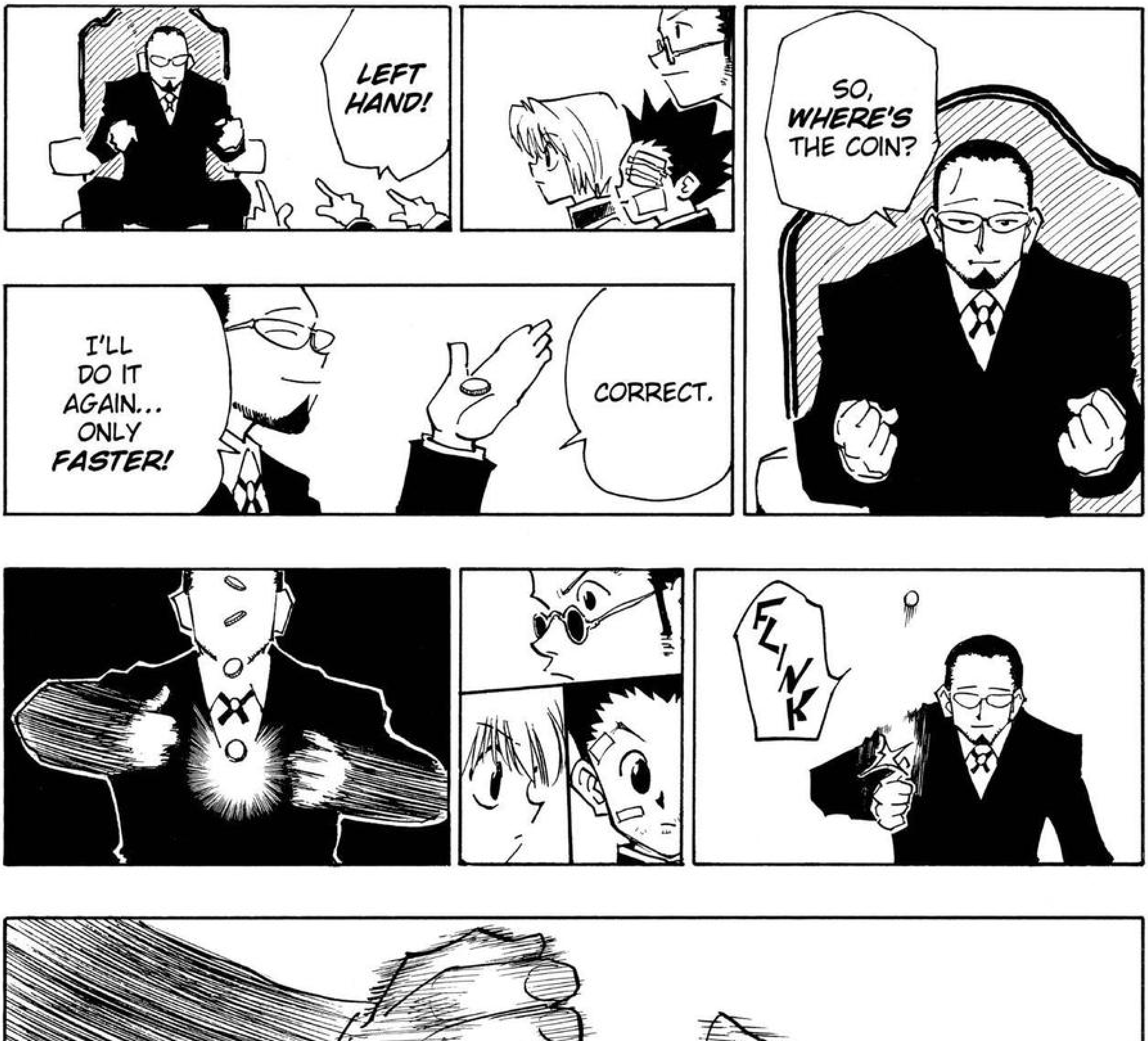
READ THIS WAY

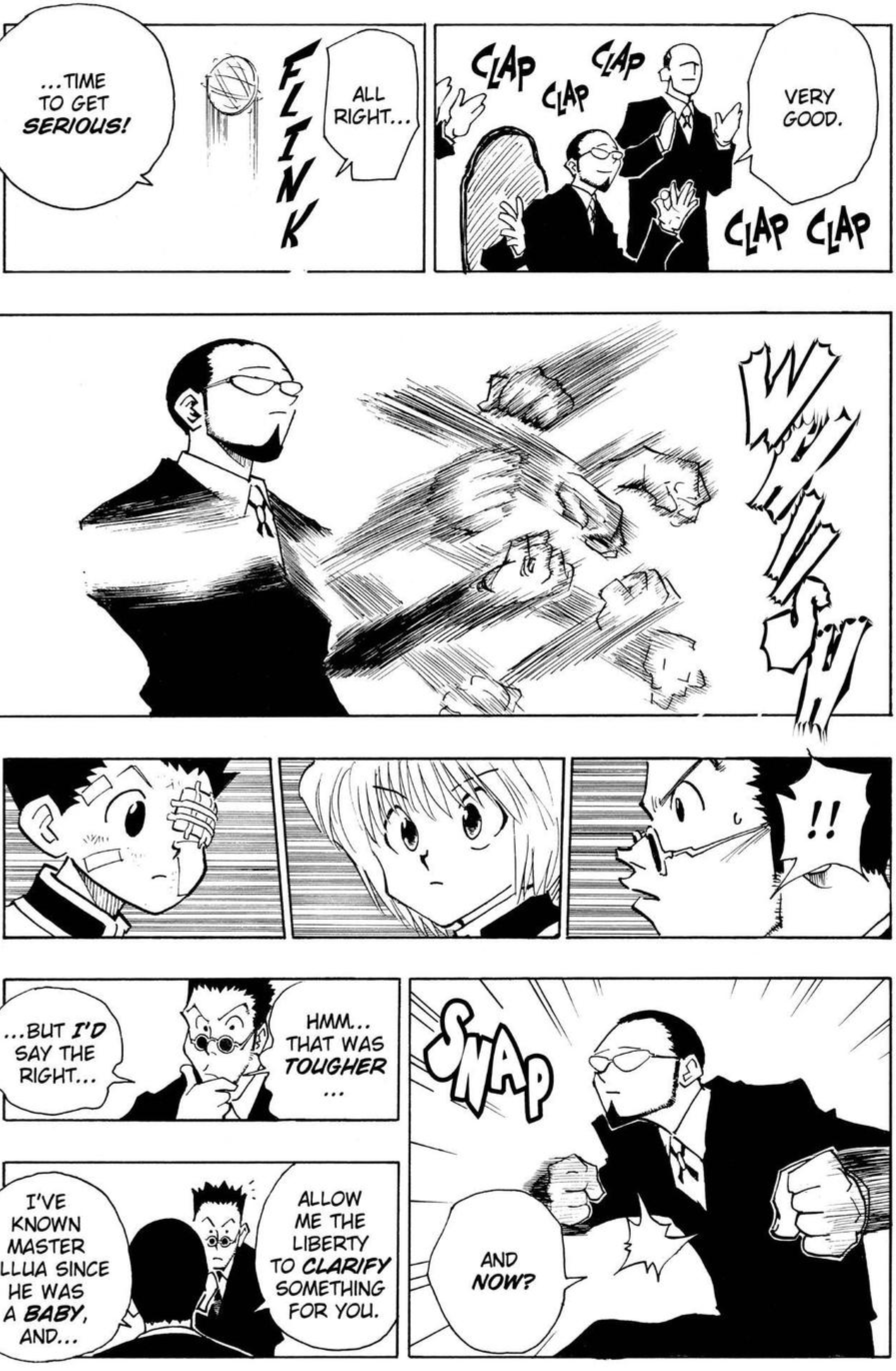

BOW
WE APOLOGIZE FOR OUR PREVIOUS DISCOURTESY.
OW...
WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY THE LADY OF THE HOUSE...
...THAT YOU ARE TO BE TREATED AS ***OFFICIAL GUESTS***. PLEASE, HAVE A SEAT.

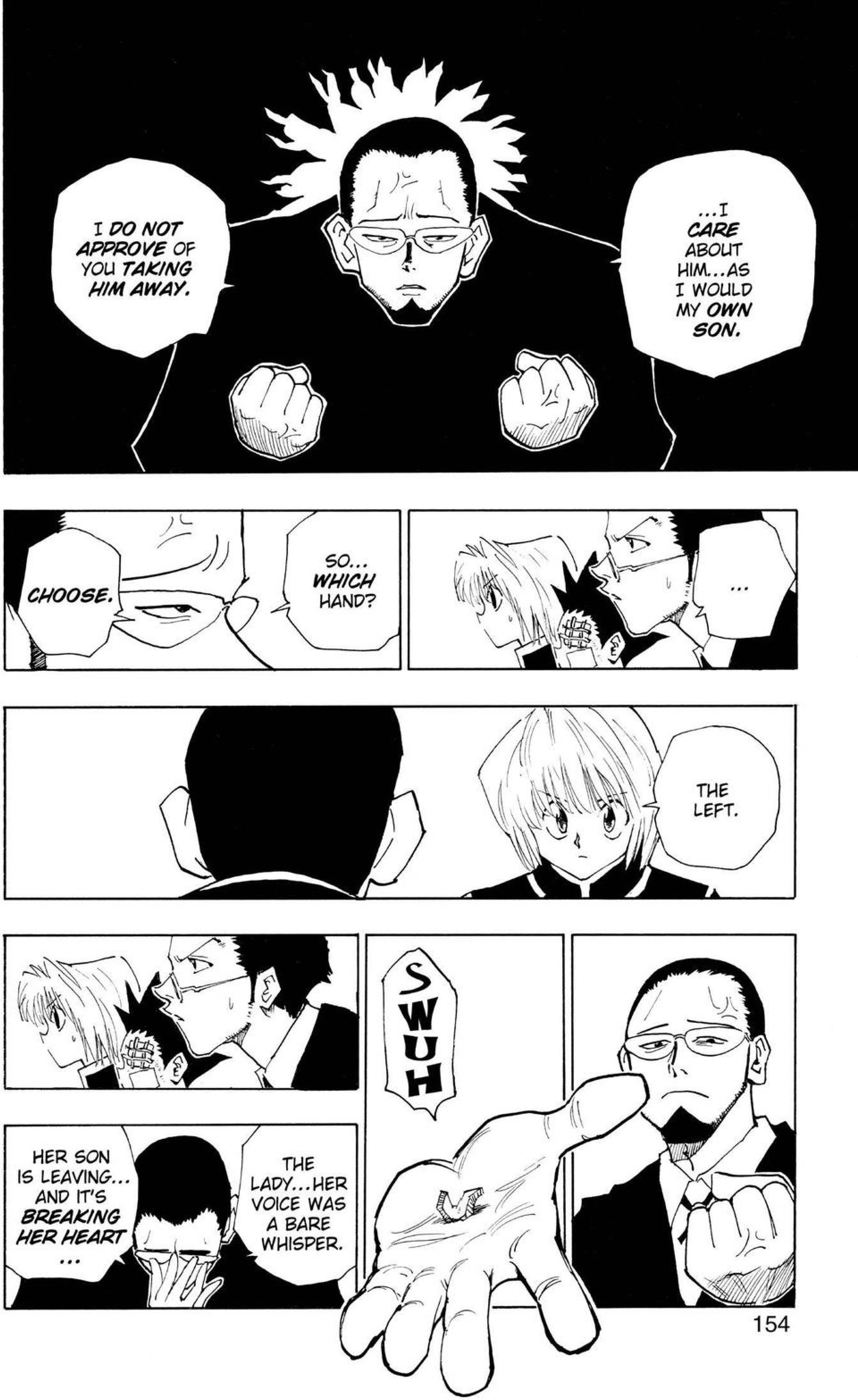

WELCOME TO THE BUTLER'S QUARTERS.
...
WE'RE NOT AT THE MANSION?
NOT EVEN *CLOSE*, BELIEVE ME.
LOOK, WE APPRECIATE THIS...
...BUT WE'RE HERE TO SEE *KILLUA*, OKAY?
SO IF YOU'LL JUST TAKE US UP TO THE MANSION...
THAT IS NOT NECESSARY.
MASTER KILLUA WILL BE *HERE* ANON.

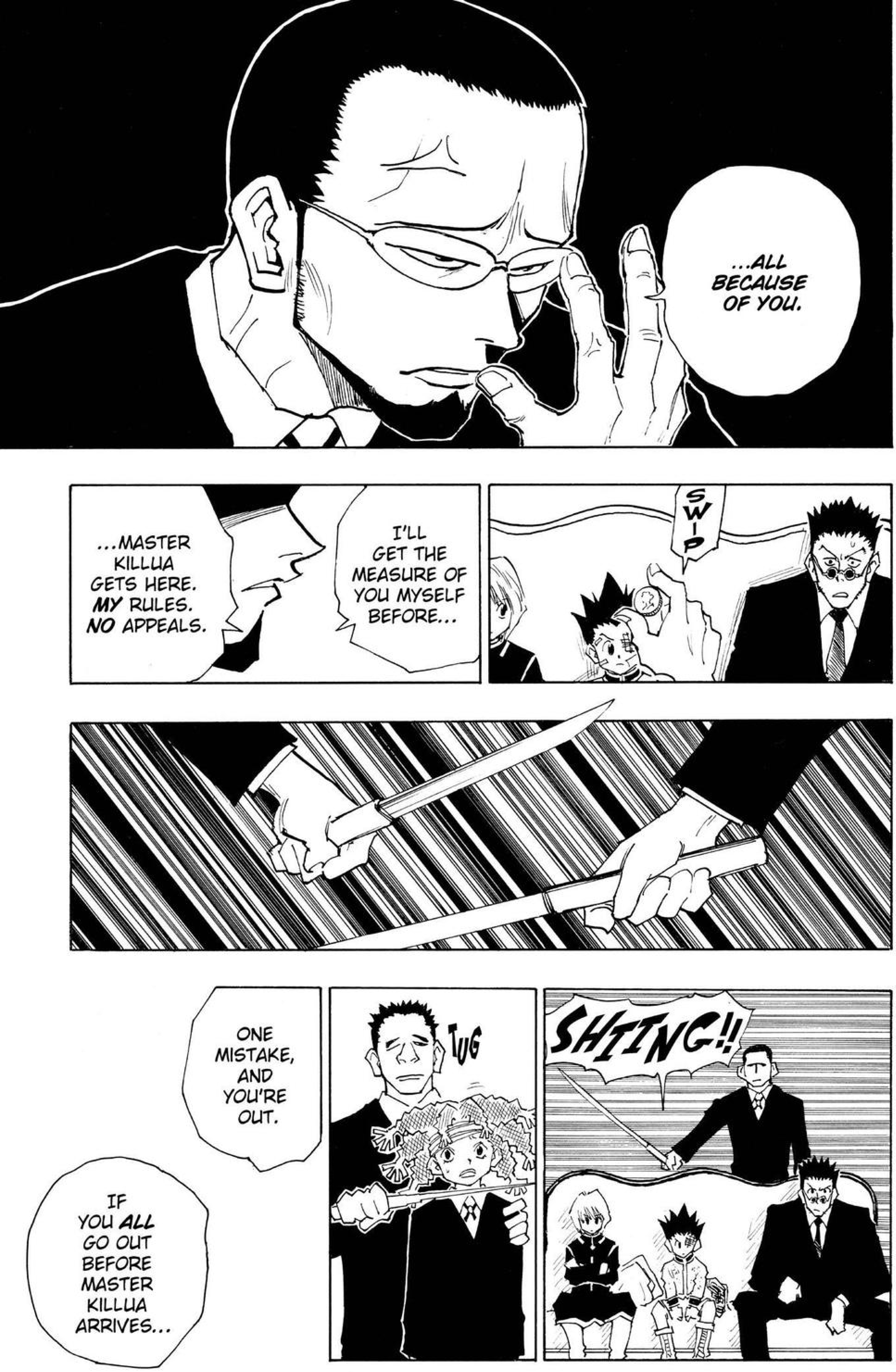
READ THIS WAY

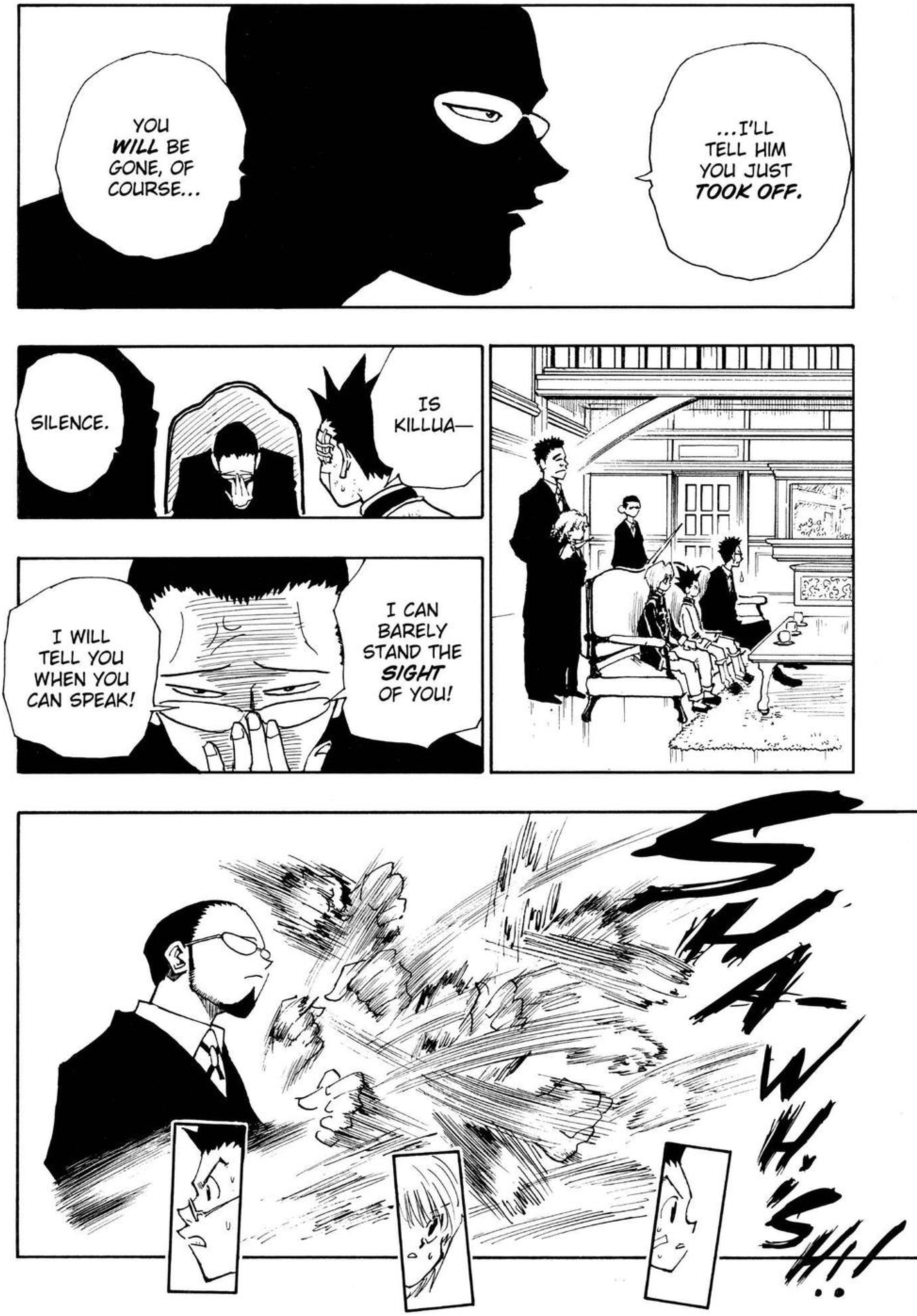

HE'S COMING *HERE?!*
THAT'S RIGHT.
SO PLEASE, BE PATIENT.
NOW...
...AS WAITING IS ALWAYS A *TEDIOUS* AFFAIR...
...PERHAPS WE COULD PASS THE TIME WITH A LITTLE *GAME?*
SUCH AS...?
FLINK
SNAP!!


SO, WHERE'S THE COIN?
LEFT HAND!
CORRECT.
I'LL DO IT AGAIN... ONLY FASTER!
FLINK
SNAP!!
AND NOW... WHERE?
LEFT AGAIN!

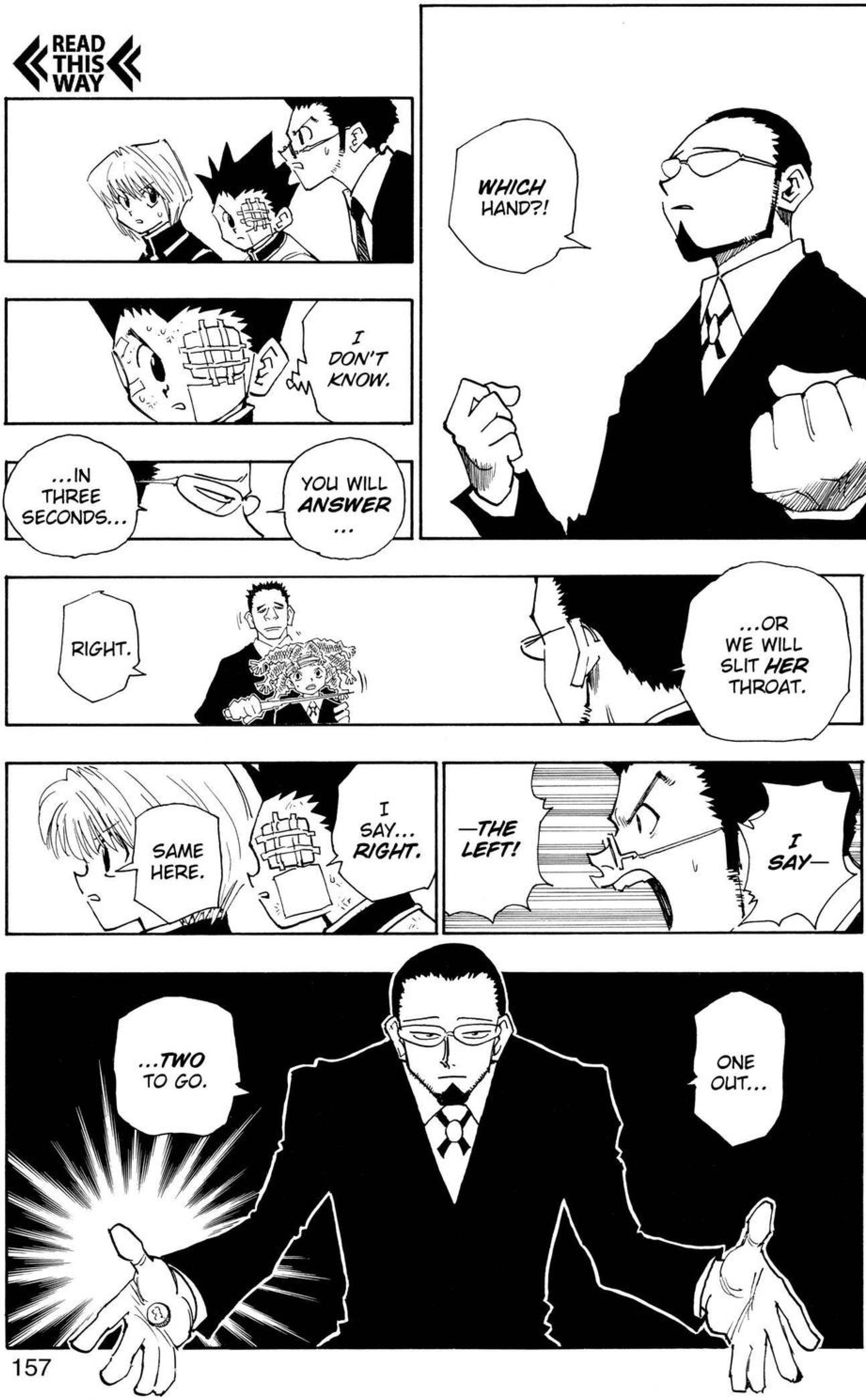

VERY GOOD.
CLAP CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP
ALL RIGHT…
FLINK
…TIME TO GET SERIOUS!
!!
SNAP
AND NOW?
HMM… THAT WAS TOUGHER …
…BUT I'D SAY THE RIGHT…
ALLOW ME THE LIBERTY TO CLARIFY SOMETHING FOR YOU.
I'VE KNOWN MASTER KILLUA SINCE HE WAS A BABY, AND…

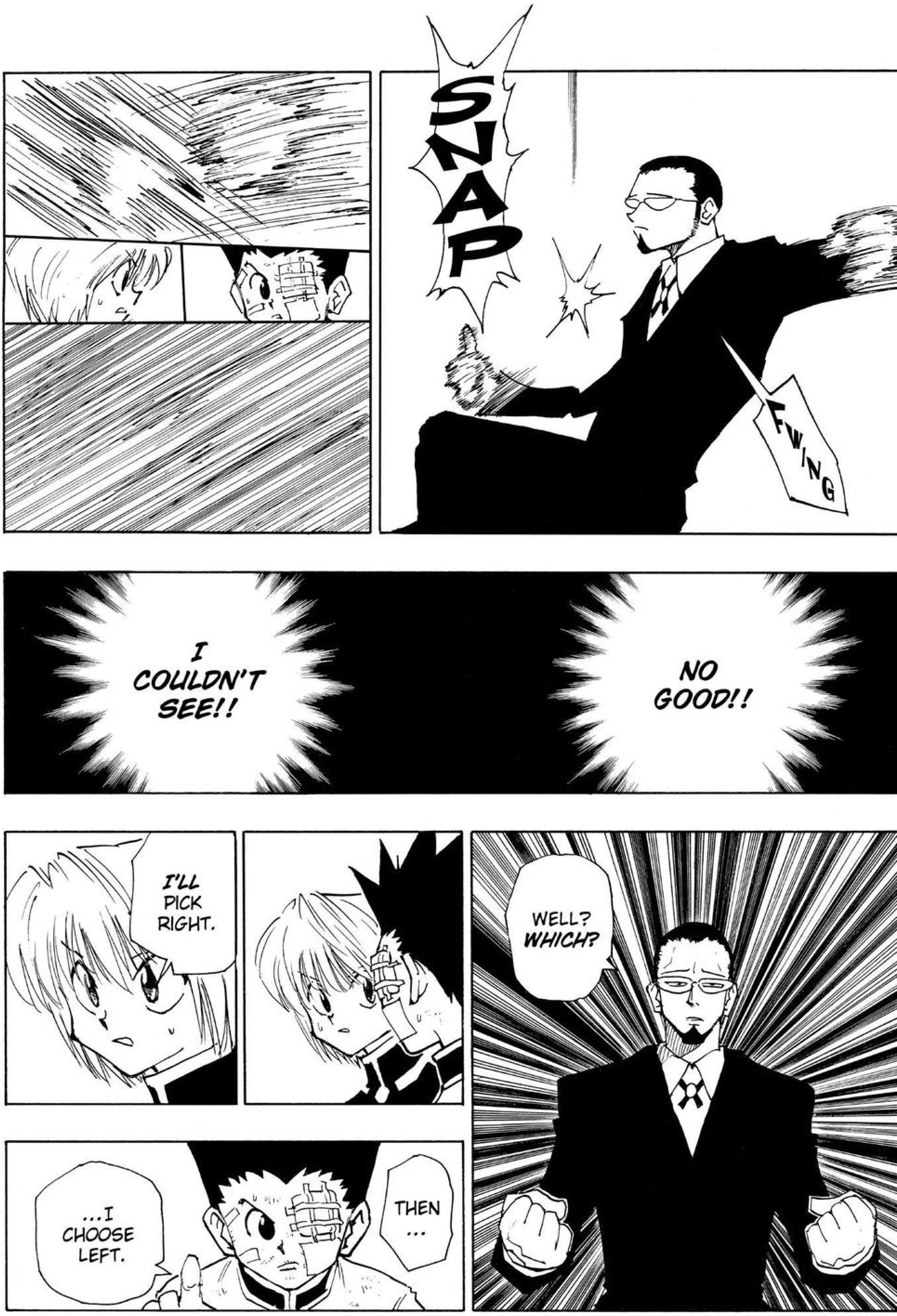

...I CARE ABOUT HIM...AS I WOULD MY OWN SON.
I DO NOT APPROVE OF YOU TAKING HIM AWAY.
...
SO... WHICH HAND?
CHOOSE.
THE LEFT.
SWUH
THE LADY...HER VOICE WAS A BARE WHISPER.
HER SON IS LEAVING... AND IT'S BREAKING HER HEART...

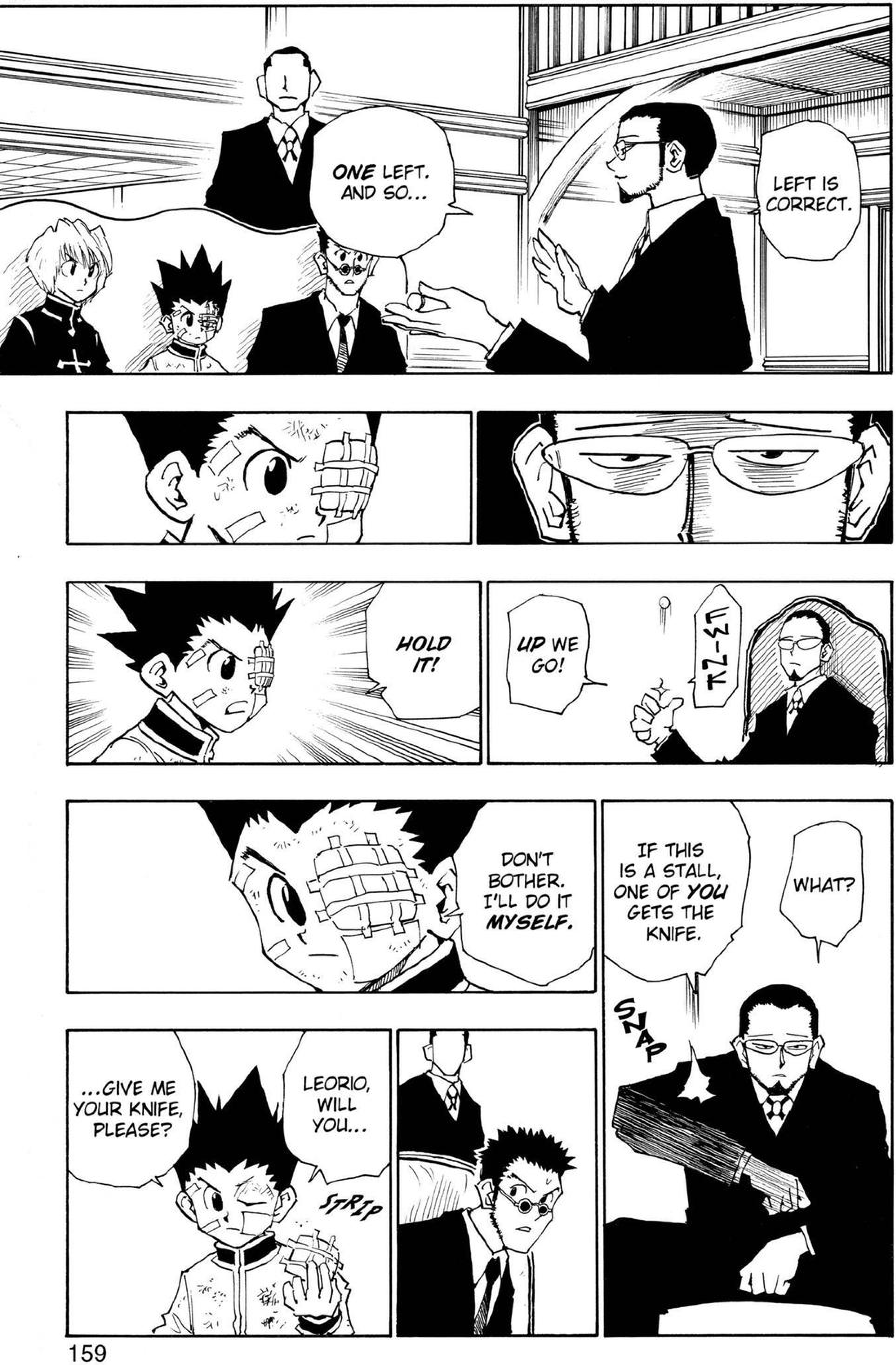

...ALL BECAUSE OF YOU.
SWIP
I'LL GET THE MEASURE OF YOU MYSELF BEFORE...
...MASTER KILLUA GETS HERE. **MY** RULES. **NO** APPEALS.
SHING!!
TUG
ONE MISTAKE, AND YOU'RE OUT.
IF YOU **ALL** GO OUT BEFORE MASTER KILLUA ARRIVES...

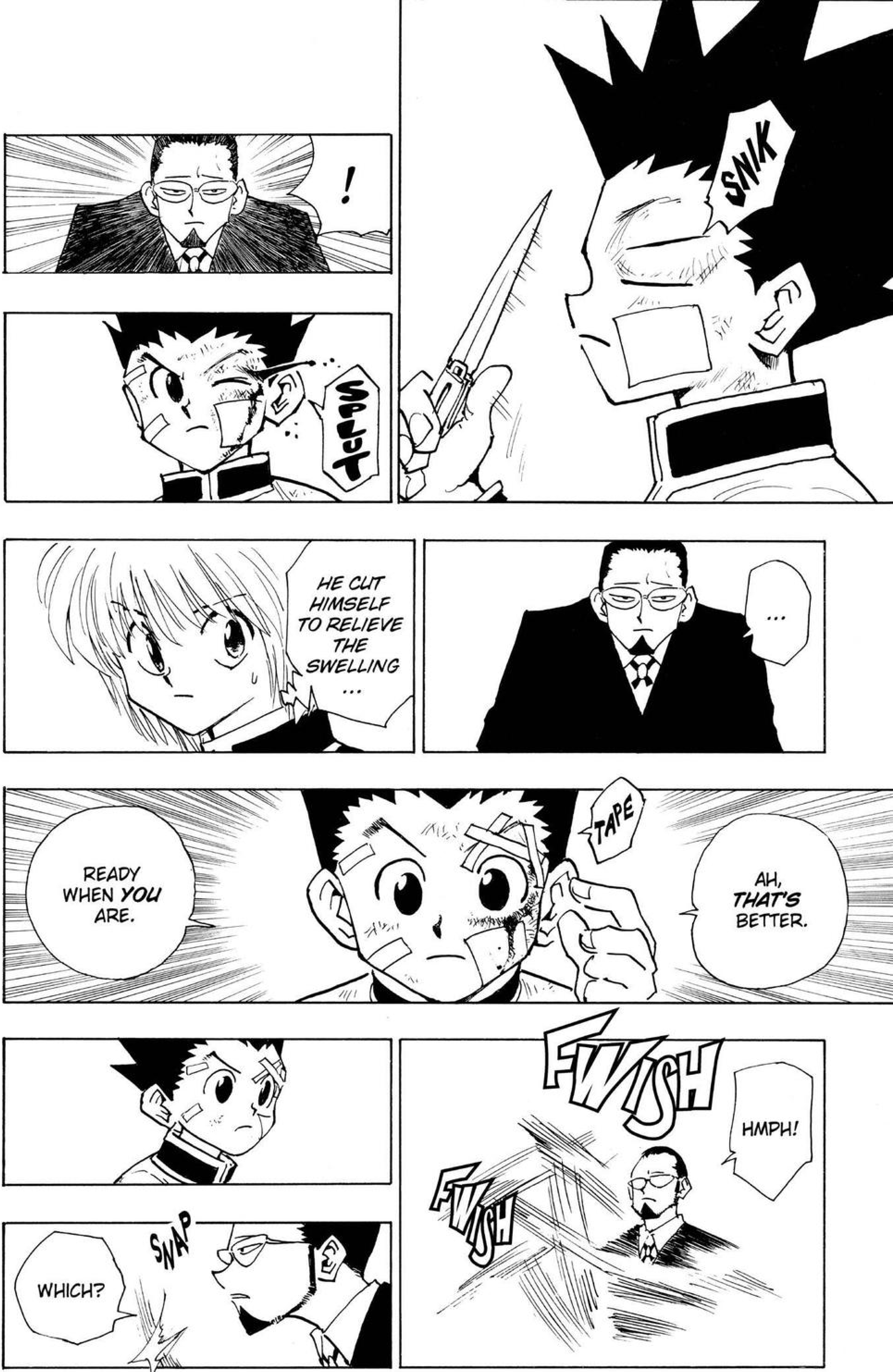

...I'LL TELL HIM YOU JUST **TOOK OFF.**
YOU **WILL** BE GONE, OF COURSE...
IS KILLUA—
SILENCE.
I CAN BARELY STAND THE **SIGHT** OF YOU!
I WILL TELL YOU WHEN YOU CAN SPEAK!
SHA-WHISH!!

READ THIS WAY

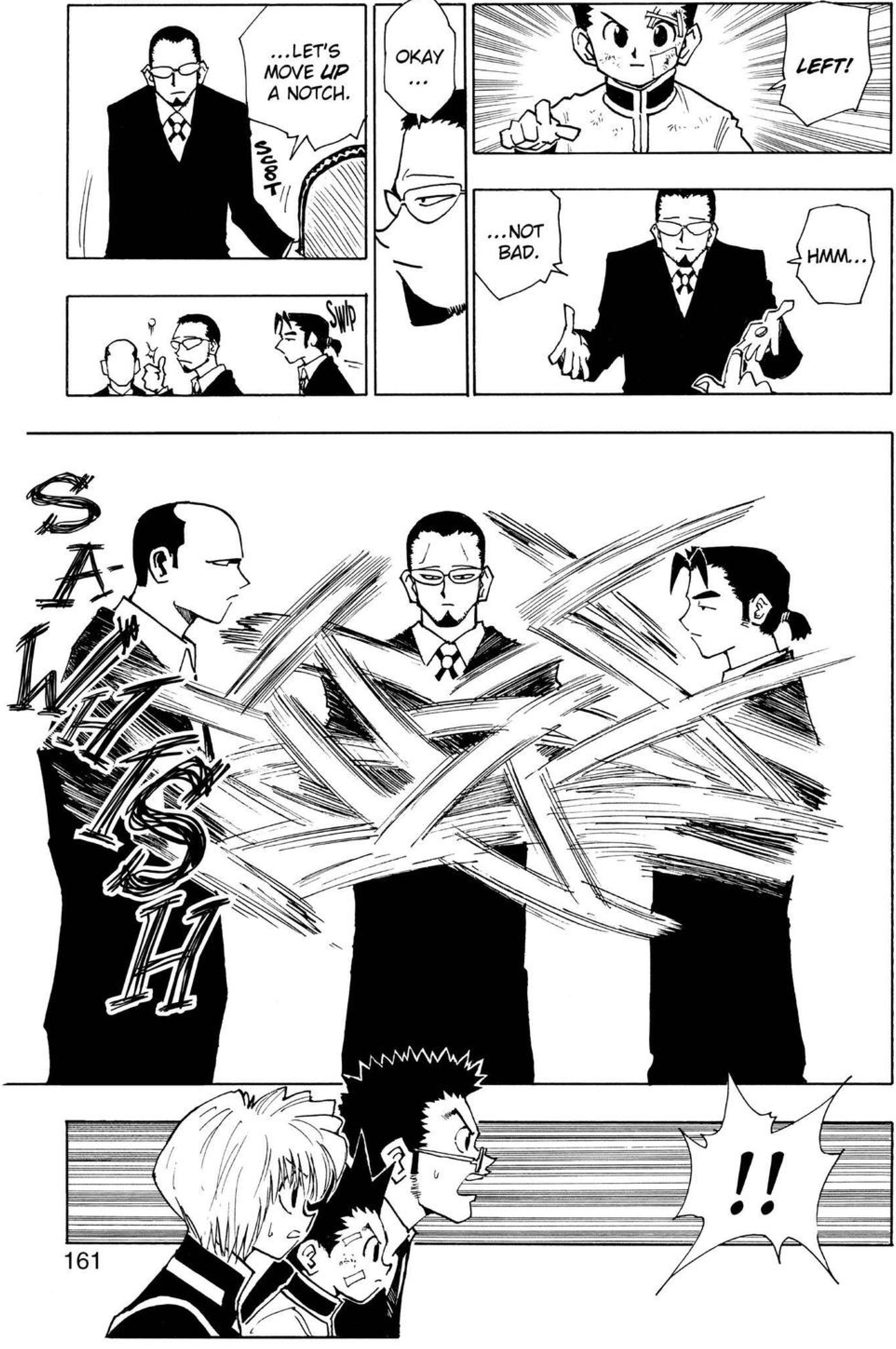

WHICH HAND?!
I DON'T KNOW.
YOU WILL ANSWER ...
...IN THREE SECONDS...
...OR WE WILL SLIT HER THROAT.
RIGHT.
I SAY—
—THE LEFT!
I SAY... RIGHT.
SAME HERE.
ONE OUT...
...TWO TO GO.

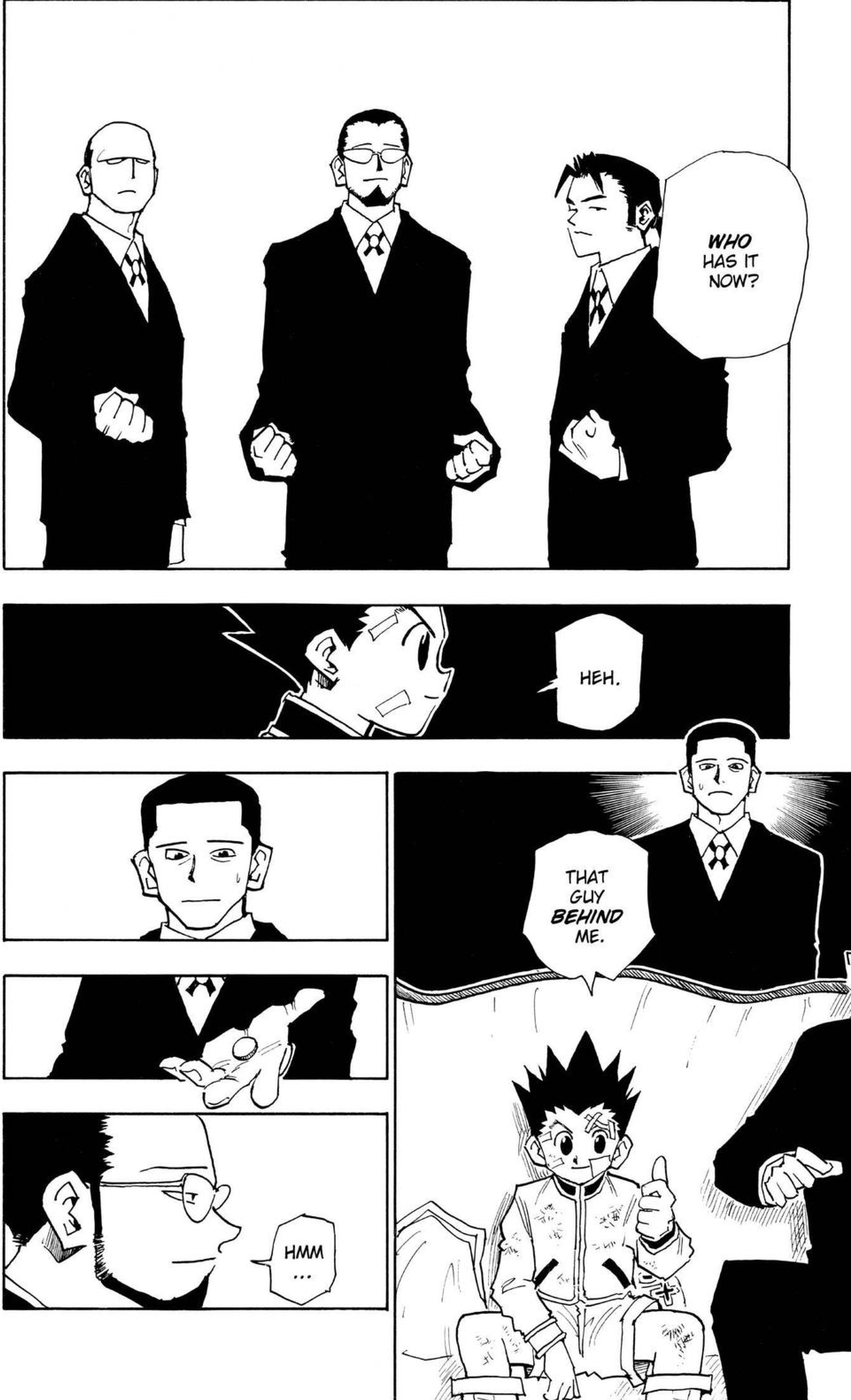

SNAP
FWING
NO GOOD!!
I COULDN'T SEE!!
WELL? WHICH?
I'LL PICK RIGHT.
THEN ...
...I CHOOSE LEFT.

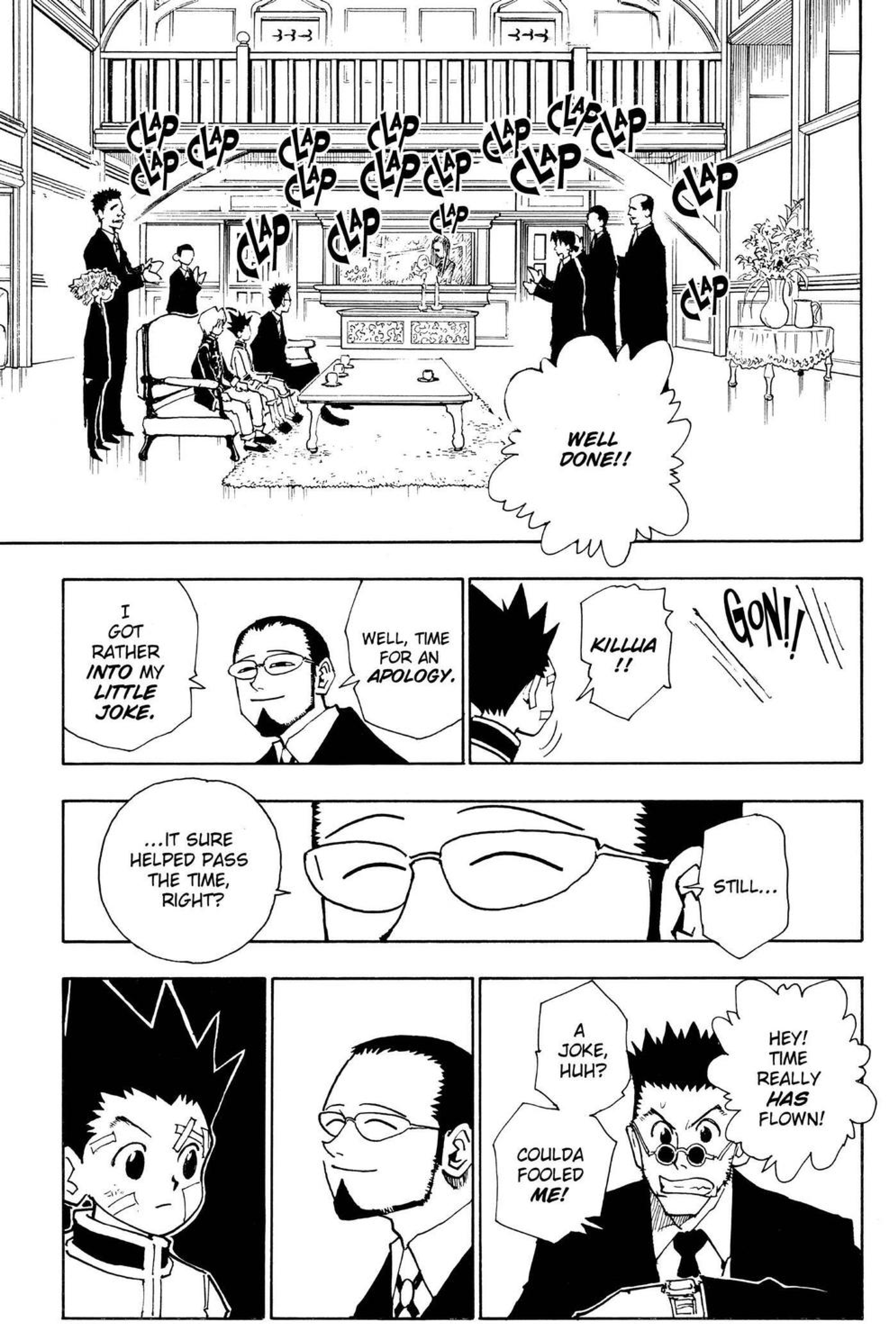

LEFT IS CORRECT.
ONE LEFT. AND SO...
UP WE GO!
HOLD IT!
WHAT?
IF THIS IS A STALL, ONE OF YOU GETS THE KNIFE.
SNAP
DON'T BOTHER. I'LL DO IT MYSELF.
LEORIO, WILL YOU...
...GIVE ME YOUR KNIFE, PLEASE?
STRIP

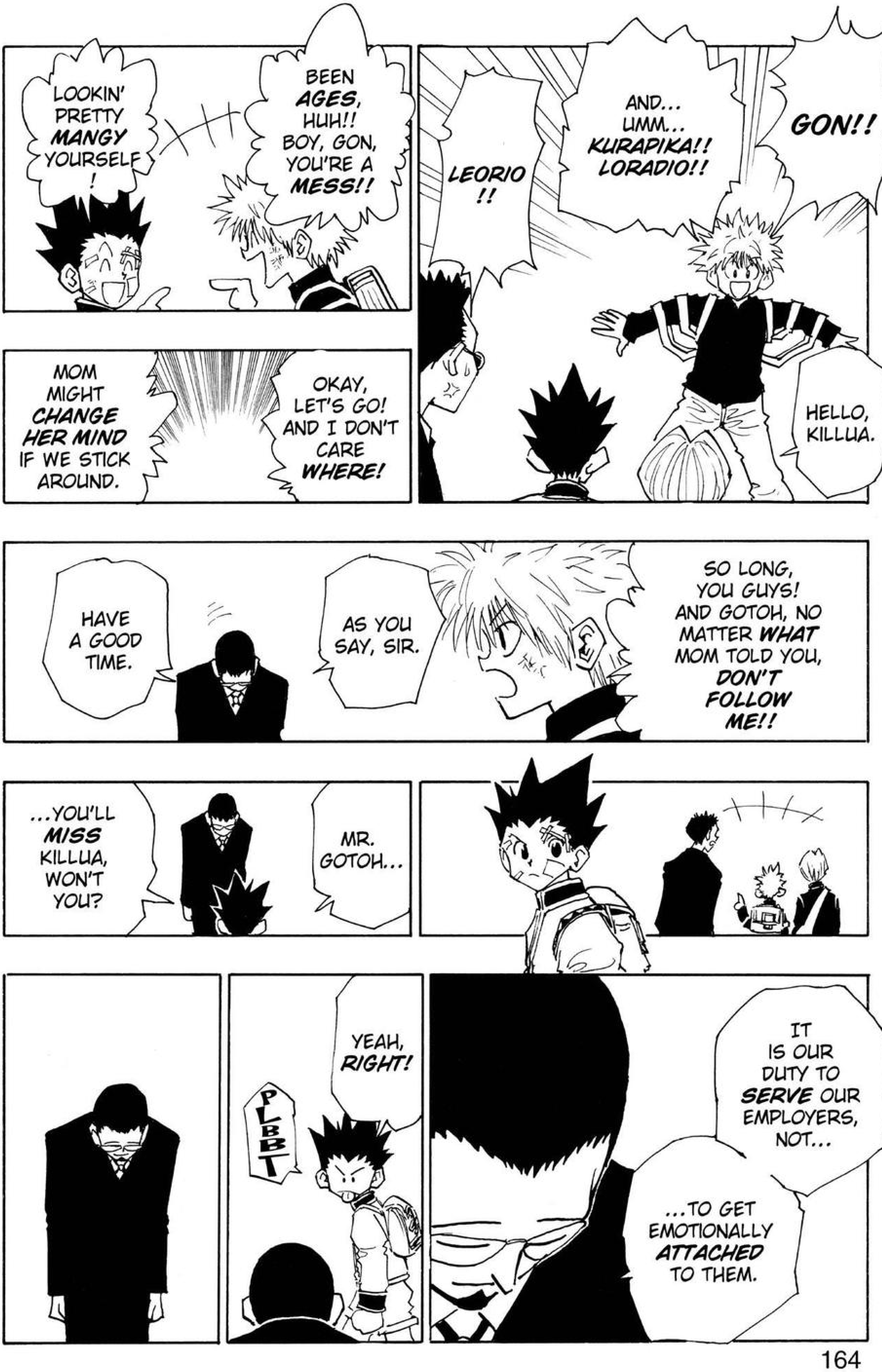

SNIK
!
SPLUT
...
HE CUT HIMSELF TO RELIEVE THE SWELLING ...
AH, THAT'S BETTER.
TAPE
READY WHEN YOU ARE.
FWISH
HMPH!
FWISH
SNAP
WHICH?

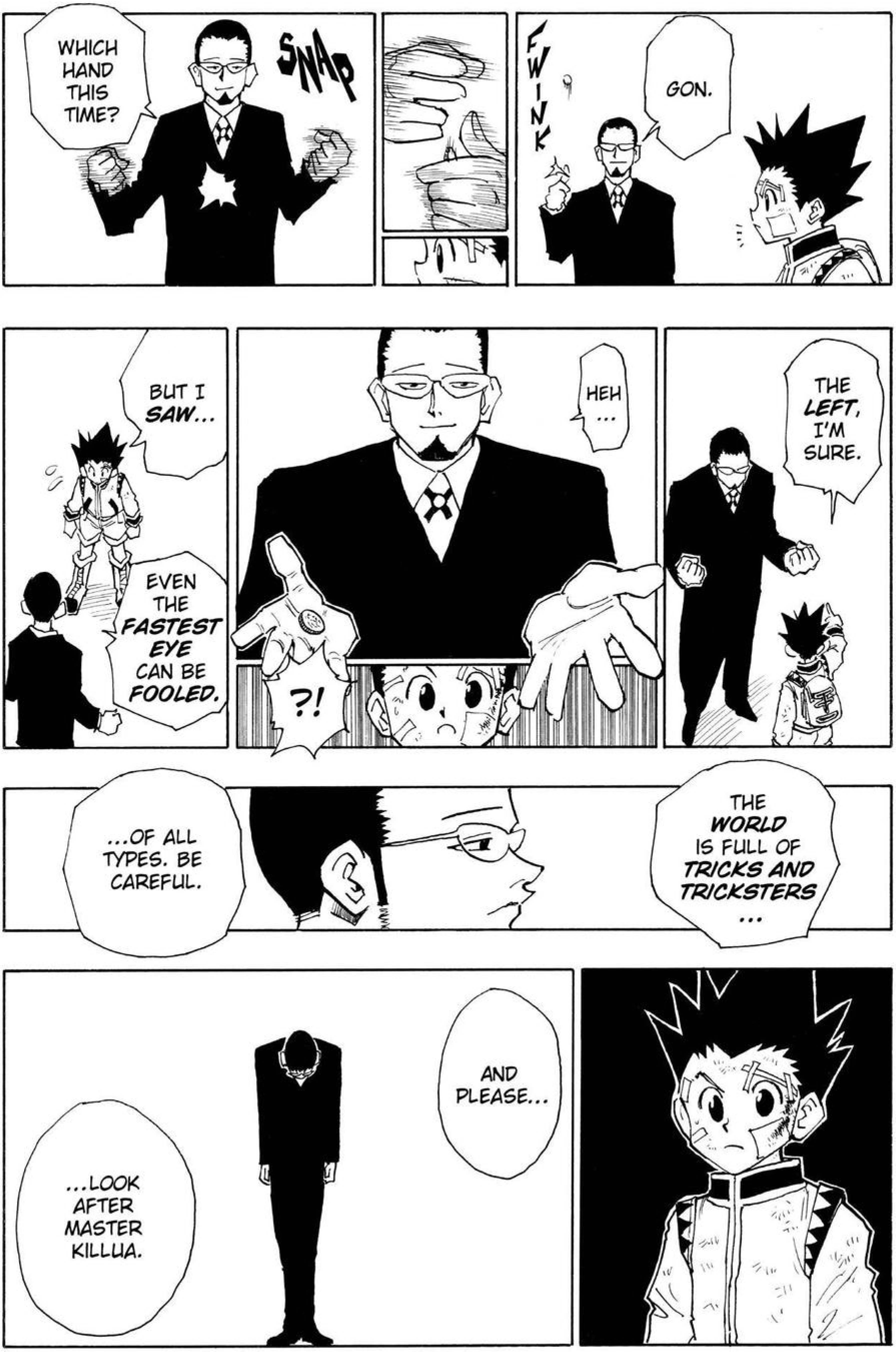
READ THIS WAY


LEFT!
HMM...
...NOT BAD.
OKAY...
...LET'S MOVE UP A NOTCH.
SCOOT
SWIP
SA-WHISH
!!


WHO HAS IT NOW?
HEH.
THAT GUY BEHIND ME.
HMM...

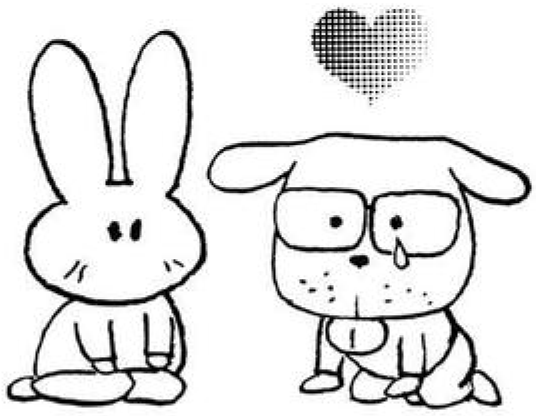

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
WELL DONE!!
GON!!
KILLUA!!
WELL, TIME FOR AN *APOLOGY.*
I GOT RATHER *INTO MY LITTLE JOKE.*
STILL...
...IT SURE HELPED PASS THE TIME, RIGHT?
HEY! TIME REALLY *HAS* FLOWN!
A JOKE, HUH?
COULDA FOOLED *ME!*


GON!!
AND... UMM... **KURAPIKA!! LORADIO!!**
LEORIO !!
HELLO, KILLUA.
BEEN **AGES,** HUH!! BOY, GON, YOU'RE A **MESS!!**
LOOKIN' PRETTY **MANGY** YOURSELF!
OKAY, LET'S GO! AND I DON'T CARE **WHERE!**
MOM MIGHT **CHANGE HER MIND** IF WE STICK AROUND.
SO LONG, YOU GUYS! AND GOTOH, NO MATTER **WHAT** MOM TOLD YOU, **DON'T FOLLOW ME!!**
AS YOU SAY, SIR.
HAVE A GOOD TIME.
MR. GOTOH...
...YOU'LL **MISS** KILLUA, WON'T YOU?
IT IS OUR DUTY TO **SERVE** OUR EMPLOYERS, NOT...
...TO GET EMOTIONALLY **ATTACHED** TO THEM.
YEAH, **RIGHT!**
PLBBT


GON.
FWINK
SNAP
WHICH HAND THIS TIME?
THE *LEFT*, I'M SURE.
HEH ...
?!
BUT I *SAW*...
EVEN THE *FASTEST EYE* CAN BE *FOOLED.*
THE *WORLD* IS FULL OF *TRICKS AND TRICKSTERS* ...
...OF ALL TYPES. BE CAREFUL.
AND PLEASE...
...LOOK AFTER MASTER KILLUA.

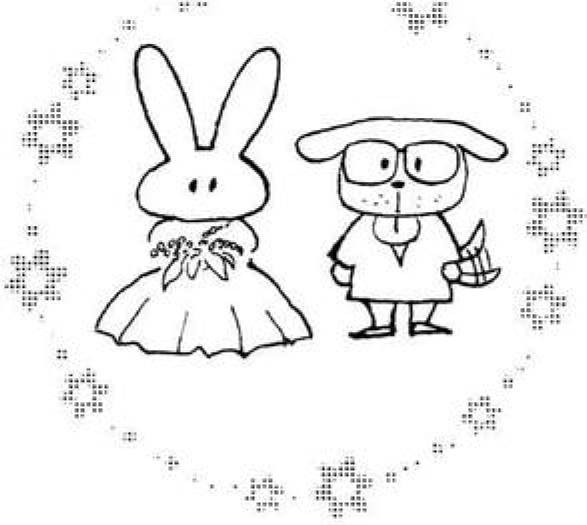
I got married to Miss Naoko Takeuchi.

① THE PROPOSAL.

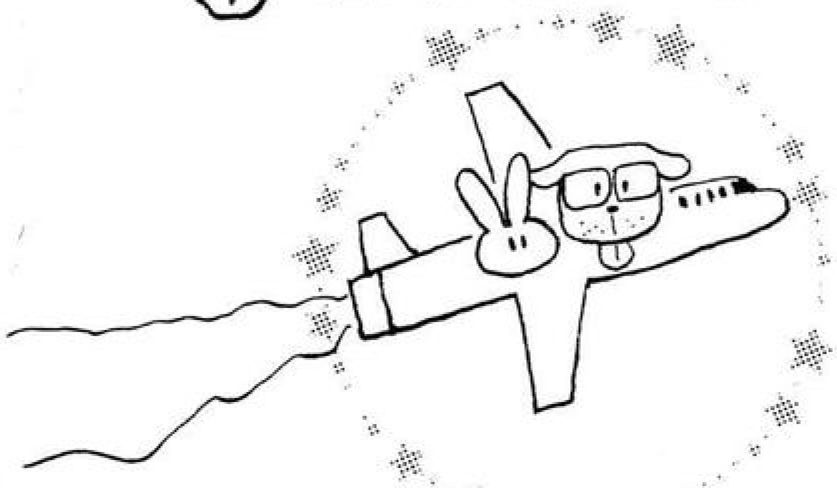


② PREPARING FOR THE WEDDING.

③ THE WEDDING AND THE RECEPTION.



④ THE HONEYMOON.



⑤ NOW WE WORK SIDE BY SIDE.

THANKS FOR ALL THE LETTERS WISHING US THE BEST!!

(PLEASE SEND US MORE.)